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THE STRUCTURE

The 2001/2002 NSW Premier League consists of twenty two rounds of home & away matches, commencing Friday 19th October at Henson Park (Marrickville). Each round features six matches to be played over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. At each venue during the regular season, the first-grade kick-off follows the completion of the under-19 game.
All first-grade games are scheduled to commence in the early-to-mid evening. The final round of home & away matches will be played on the 6th of April 2001 and the top five ranked teams in the Premiership qualify for the 4-week finals series.

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER: ROUND 1

Friday 19 October

Henson Park (8:00 PM, 6:00 PM)
Canterbury Marrickville Vs Blacktown City Demons

Saturday 20 October

Andrews Road Field (7:00 PM, 5:00 PM)
Penrith Panthers Vs Sutherland Sharks

Nineveh Field (7:00 PM, 5:00 PM)
Fairfield Bulls Vs Leichhardt Tigers

Serbian Centre (6:30 PM, 4:30 PM)
Bonnyrigg White Eagles Vs Belconnen Blue Devils

Pluim Park (7:00 PM, 5:00 PM)
Central Coast Coasties Vs Bankstown City Lions

Sunday 21 October

Melita Stadium (6:30 PM, 4:30 PM)
Parramatta Eagles Vs St George Saints

SOCCER FEDERATION N.S.W

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS

Home Ground: Jensen Park (Clapham Street, SEFTON)
Club Nickname: Lions
Contact Officer: George Jackson
Contact Number: 9644 2539
Home Strip: Shirt - Red with Black Trim, Shorts - Black with Red Trim, Socks - Red with Black Trim
Alternate Strip: Shirt - White Black/Red/Yellow Trim, Shorts - Black Red Trim, Socks - Black Red Trim
Background Information
Founded: 1973
Joined Premier League: 2001
Note: Bankstown City comes into the Premier eague as the reigning Winter Super League Premiers.

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS

Home Ground: West Belconnen Sports Ground (Hardwick Crescent, HOLT, ACT)
Club Nickname: Blue Devils
Contact Officer: Tony Paterson
Contact Number: 6254 5115
Home strip: Shirt - Sky Blue, Shorts – Navy, Socks - Sky Blue
Alternate strip: Shirt - Navy Blue, Shorts -Navy Blue, Socks - White
Background Information
Founded: 1970
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001 NSW Premier League: 7th (from 10 teams)

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS

Home Ground: Gabbie Stadium (Quinn Avenue, SEVEN HILLS)
Club Nickname: Demons
Contact Officer: Ken Schembri
Contact Number: 9624 3344
Home strip: Shirt - Red & White stripe with Black trim, Shorts - Black with White Trim, Socks - Black
Alternate strip: Shirt - Claret & Light Blue trim, Shorts - White with Claret/Blue trim, Socks - White
Founded: 1953
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 1st (also Grand Final runner-up)

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

Home Ground: Serbian Centre (Lot 13, Simpson Road BONNYRIGG)
Club Nickname: White Eagles
Contact Officer: Jack Cirjanic
Contact Number: 9823 7714
Home strip: Shirt- Red, Shorts - Blue, Socks - White
Alternate strip: Shirt- White, Shorts - White, Socks - White
Founded: 1968
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 2nd (also Grand Final winners)

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC

Home Ground: Henson Park (Sydenham Road/Centennial Street, MARRICKVILLE)
Club Nickname: Berries
Contact Officer: Laki Konistis
Contact Number: 0411 191 815
Home strip: Shirt- Yellow and Blue Trim, Shorts - Yellow with Blue Trim, Socks - Yellow and Blue Trim
Alternate strip: Shirt- Blue with Yellow Trim, Shorts - Blue with Yellow Trim, Socks - Blue with Yellow Trim
Founded: 1889
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 4th

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES

Home Ground: Pluim Park (Tuggerah Street LISAROW)
Club Nickname: The Coasties
Contact Officer: Joe Spiteri
Contact Number: 4334 2478 (P/F)
Home strip: Shirt - White with Blue Trim, Shorts - Blue, Socks - Blue or Red with White Trim
Alternate strip: Shirt - Blue with White Trim, Shorts - Blue with Red & White Trim, Socks - Blue or Red with White Trim
Founded: 1982
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 8th

FAIRFIELD BULLS

Home Ground: Nineveh Field (673 Smithfield Road EDENSOR PARK)
Club Nickname: Bulls
Contact Officer: Andy Isho
Contact Number: 9610 4655
Home strip: Shirt – White, Shorts - Black with White Trim, Socks - Black
Alternate strip: Shirt – Red, Shorts - White with Black Trim, Socks - Red
Founded: 1971
Joined Premier League: 2001

LEICHHARDT TIGERS

Home Ground: Lambert Park (Marion Street, LEICHHARDT)
Club Nickname: Tigers
Contact Officer: Pia Scarselletta
Contact Number: 9560 5414
Home strip: Shirt- White with Maroon/Sky Blue Trim, Shorts - Maroon with Sky Blue Trim, Socks- Maroon with Maroon/Sky Blue Trim
Alternate strip: Shirt - White with Maroon/Sky Blue Trim, Shorts - White with Tiger Logo & Maroon/Sky Blue Trim, Socks - White with Maroon/Sky Blue Trim
Founded: 1954
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 5th

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES

Home Ground: Melita Stadium (Everley Road, SOUTH GRANVILLE)
Club Nickname: Eagles
Contact Officer: John Comito
Contact Number: 9743 7130
Home strip: Shirt - White with Red trim, Shorts - White with Red trim, Socks - White with Red trim
Alternate strip: Shirt-Yellow, Shorts-Yellow, Sock Yellow
Founded: 1956
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 3rd

PENRITH PANTHERS

Andrews Road Field (Andrews Road, PENRITH
Club Nickname: Panthers
Contact Officer: Alan Perkins
Contact Number: 0403 249 673
Home strip: Shirt - Black with White, Green, Red Yellow trim, Shorts - Black with White, Green, R Yellow trim, Socks - Black with White, Green, R Yellow trim
Alternate strip: Shirt-White with Black, Green, R Yellow trim, Shorts-White with Green, Red & Ye trim, Socks-White
Founded: 1990
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 9th

ST GEORGE

Home Ground: St George Stadium (88 Bestic S ROCKDALE)
Club Nickname: Saints
Contact Officer: Dot Buckley
Contact Number: 9599 3359
Home strip: Shirt - White and Red Trim, Shorts with White Trim, Socks - White and Red Trim
Alternate strip: Shirt - Red and White Trim, Sho and White Trim, Socks -White with Red Trim
Founded: 1924
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 6th

SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Home Ground: Seymour Shaw Park (The Boul MIRANDA)
Club Nickname: Sharks
Contact Officer: Richard May
Contact Number: 9524 3011
Home strip:
Shirt- Sky Blue & White with Black trim, Shorts with Sky Blue trim, Socks- Black
Alternate strip: Shirt-Gold with blue piping, Sho with blue piping, Socks-Blue
Founded: 1936
Joined Premier League: 2000
Position in 2000/2001: 10th

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SUPER SOCCER
incorporating FOOTBALL WEEKLY
NEW SERIES: #49 VOLUME XI, NUMBER 2

COVER PIC

PARRAMATTA head coach Dave Mitchell is under big pressure this season. An opening round loss against Sydney rivals Northern Spirit has added to it - but despite that setback the Power camp says there is no talk of panic.
This Saturday Power take on Champions Wollongong Wolves at Parramatta Stadium.

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super soccer
AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING
FOOTBALL WEEKLY

Bruce Campbell talking football

IT'S AN amazing thing: quite often those who say that this game hasn't progressed in the last thirty years have themselves only a very short time span within the sport.

They can't see the progress because they haven't been around ong enough.

Last Saturday I spent a very enjoyable day at Valentine Park watching the 2001 National Youth Championships.

They call it the National Talent Identification series these days, but whatever the official tag it is the pinnacle for elite level kids.

It is now and it always has been.

Times haven't changed?

When I trotted out in the 1967 championships, was it really that long ago?, there wasn't a single person on the sideline except for **the support staff for the teams.**

We played on some of what must surely have been Melbourne's worst pitches.

If they weren't then the rest must have been really bad.

There was no media interest and other than a passing line or two in the results section of the nationals that was that.

A faded pennant and a few swapped team badges are all that I have to show for the experience.

Instead, on Saturday there was a glossy programme, a grandstand and four touchlines full of spectators, a photo business and a video processor all doing a roaring trade.

A couple of canteens also added up to a fairly memorable day. On the sidelines were some very notables from the world of football too.

I chatted with four overseas connected player agents, the national **youth team coach, state presidents and various other dignitaries.** Also there was Soccer Australia Technical Director Les Scheinflug.

The word to wrap the whole day up was professionalism.

In my day we only played for fun, now these kids are serious.

But I can't help believing that it has all gone just a wee bit pear shaped.

I'm not knocking the fact that top players in Britain earn more on a miserable Saturday afternoon than most of us do in two years and despite the obvious obscenity of that fact I say good luck to them. Neither am I saying that the kids shouldn't take it seriously.

Of course they should.

They have a future to look after.

But in 1967 they didn't have to print a page in the programme telling agents how to behave within a code of conduct.

There weren't any, anyway.

I did have a moment's fleeting cynical thought that there should be a printed page with a code of conduct for parents also but I can understand their anxiety.

However, I enjoyed my football.

I didn't care whether I was the best in the team, the best in the state or the best in the country.

I just played football because I loved kicking a ball.

There were no rewards although others would disagree. They might think that the few trips I got to play with state teams were a reward. Me, I just liked kicking the ball and would have done it in any team that would pick me.

Have we progressed?

You bet your life we have.

New South Wales has the finest youth system in the world, that is our progress.

Sure it isn't perfect and of course there is still a long, long way to go.

But it is still the best.

That is because of the massive investment in places like Valentine Park which must also rank as one of the world's top facilities of its kind.

Next year the National Youth tiles are back at the same venue and while I really do believe that we have come such a long way I hope that a further sign of our professionalism isn't an insertion into the programme regarding parent's conduct.

Sometimes it is easy to forget that these budding Kewells, Bosnichs and Vidukas are just kids. And I am sure that they like to kick the ball just as much as I did. The rest is a bonus.

***SuperSoccer* editor Bruce Campbell is one of Australia's senior football journalists. In over a decade he has edited every major football publication in this country and has never been afraid to turn his pen on the tough subjects.**
Has the game in this country progrssed? A trip to the junior Nationals on saturday is proof of just how much.

Football's 'Ugly Sister' kicks off - despite the problems

IT MIGHT well be the era of open-ness at Soccer Australia but there were more than a few shocked reactions at just how frank the dialogue came at the NSL's season launch at Sydney's Luna Park last week.

For the first time the NSL held three separate launches around the country instead of the major extravaganza of the past.

There is little doubt that the NSL needs a bit of a gee-up but few in the hardened and often cynical press corps expected what new NSL commission chairman Remo Nogarotto had to say about the state of the game.

It had the immediate effect of raising eyebrows within SA's marketing department who spent the rest of the week putting the brush fires out.

"The ugly sister of Australian soccer is the national league and we need to get it to a beautician pretty quickly," Nogarotto said.

It was hardly a glowing endorsement of the 13-team competition which starts this Friday but an indictment of the league which needs to shape up, or as Nogarotto put it, be "consigned to the wastepaper basket for one or two decades to come".

Nogarotto, whose commission has an active role in how the game is run - including overseeing the competition's finances and player relations - said it was time to ditch the cliches of "rebuilding years" and "being at the crossroads" and lay the foundation for serious change.

"If it stacks up commercially we do it," he added.

"If it doesn't stack up commercially we don't do it.

"It's as simple as that."

"Let's not kid ourselves this is going to be a difficult season for the national soccer league."

While Nogarotto was big on philosophy, he was light on proposed changes at this stage - hoping the local league would at least ride on the coat tails of the Socceroos - who in November can qualify for the World Cup.

The physical changes to the competition are few in 2001/02 - Canberra Cosmos and the Eastern Pride are gone from last season - while the most notable is Sydney Olympic's move to Toyota Park and re-badging as the Sharks.

Speaking at the Melbourne launch, NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz was more circumspect about the state of soccer in Australia - but admitted it would take a few seasons to get the local game up to speed.

"It's certainly not going to be a short-term situation, because Soccer Australia is going to require funds to come into the organisation to be able to spend to properly market this game.

"I can't put a particular period on it, but as long as we're making progress each year, then that's important."

Kamasz also held high-level talks last week with Colonial Stadium management over the possibility of playing some league matches there.

The derby between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights, as well as a possible double-header and NSL finals are all options.

"I think you'll see games played at Colonial this year and I would think it would be on an increasing basis in the future," he said.

"There have been discussions with Colonial because we would like to play some games there this year.

"But we need to sit down with Ian Collins (Colonial Stadium chief executive) to make sure that any deal is favourable to the clubs."

A Cup competition is being proposed to take up the slack created by the last-minute disqualification of the Canberra Cosmos.

"We will be looking to introduce other matches, and the clubs would like to start a knockout Cup competition that would start around about the end of December or early January and run for a couple of months," he added.

"We'll be seeking the involvement of the State Federations in a small way, initially and hopefully this will be expanded.

NSL boss Stefan Kamasz: upbeat despite Ugly Sister comment in Sydney

"It is important that the clubs make up the games they've lost."

The initiative would need the approval of the Soccer Australia Board, but Kamasz feels the financial imperative would prevail.

"There will be a loss of home gate revenue for all the clubs and we've got to make up those gates where possible," he said.

While declining to talk-down the state of the game in Victoria, Kamasz acknowledged that Melbourne's new status as a two-team town was significant.

He said that a huge injection of funds was required to battle the city's dominant code.

"Everybody who understands soccer knows that Melbourne is the most difficult market in Australia, mainly because of the AFL down here," he said.

"We need a lot of dollars to make the impact that's necessary to provide a game that can match the AFL.

"But the Board is w remedy the situation and mistic about what we ca in Melbourne."

And with the complet dollars pent advertising ing round perhaps the n cal of all will finally b right - that the NSL is mess that it should be and started again.

New South to the fore in Nationals

by Bruce Campbell

NEW SOUTH Wales scooped the pool at the 2001 junior nationals held in Sydney last week.

But it wasn't all success for the NSWSF with soccer state Northern New South Wales grabbing the Under 16 title with NSW taking out the Under 15s.

The closing ceremony was a magnificent showpiece for the game with American Samoa bursting into song to farewell their hosts. There can have been few friendlier finishes to any tournament held in Australia.

The final day was played out in sweltering 30 degree plus conditions which reduced players in both matches to often snail pace.

Star of the match in the Under 15 game was NSW and Marconi forward Chris Theodosiou.

The little striker battled all day long for his team, often with no or little support, as NSW strangely played out the match with a lone striker formation.

Queensland had few chances although they defended well.

While they seemed devoid of attacking options much of that can be put down to NSW's stalwart defence - and the heat.

In the end the score finished 0-0 and after extra time the game was decided in the cruelest fashion, with Queensland missing the last penalty of the shoot-out.

The Under 16s saw the only goal of the finals when a dazzling, weaving run by Bradley Hicks saw the Novocastrian pick his spot before firing the ball past the stranded Northern Territory keeper.

Jobe Wheelhouse, who played an attacking midfield role for NNSW, was the best player on the park in a game which was a bit more upbeat than the preceding 15's final.

A crowd of about 1,000 witnessed the two matches with the Nationals set to return to Parklea again next year.

"It has been a great s for junior football," sai president Peter Gray.

"These boys have sho is all about and I have that Australia can kee ducing talented youngs you see players like the

"I was particular de see teams form To American Samoa take shows us the way forw future."

Tobin: it's too early to talk of panic

By Adam Leto

THE Parramatta Power, hoping to turn around the disappointments of previous seasons, are off to a bad start going down to Northern Spirit 3-1 at home.

In front of a good crowd, Power were always going to struggle after having key defender and captain David Barrett sent off in the early stages.

Both Spirit and Power have underachieved in recent years and most of the pre-season talk has centred around their new "attitude" which will see the two clubs become more of a force this season.

Certainly Spirit have lived up to their end of the bargain with their side appearing to be much more constructed and balanced then in previous seasons.

For Power though, the lack of any real penetration up front must be a cause of concern and although John Buonavoglia is a proven performer at this level, the Power are in desperate need of a strike-partner who will give the diminutive forward more room to move.

Things don't get any easier for the Power as they take on defending champions the Wollongong Wolves at home again on Saturday night.

The Wolves were held to a scoreless draw by an enthusiastic Marconi side on Friday night and they will certainly be hoping to pick up their first win against a desperate Power outfit.

Defender Alex Tobin admits that there is some pressure, although it is still too soon to be making any predictions.

"It's always disappointing when you lose the first game and it was a game we were looking to win," he said.

"We wanted to get off to a good start and I suppose it's doubly disappointing because we lost at home.

"But there were some good signs to come out of the match.

"We were one man short for most of the match and it was never going to be easy from that point on.

"But to the boys credit they all hung in and I thought they did well not to give up."

With 10 men the Power rarely threatened but they did do well to still remain competitive and were still in the game with 20 minutes remaining before the third goal sealed it for the visitors.

"That third goal was the killer goal," Tobin admits.

"Before that it looked like we could sneak a goal back and get a result, but it just wasn't to be."

Tobin also explains that it is difficult to make any assessments on the Power performance considering they played with 10 men for the majority of the match.

"It's hard to assess our performance because we played most of the game with one player down," Tobin says.

"Considering we were undermanned I thought we went alright.

"We created some chances and it would've been nice to pinch a result.

"But as soon as you start playing with 10 men the game changes automatically and the whole shape of the team changes."

If the Power fail to overcome the Wolves next week it won't be long before the tag of under-achievers is once again thrown around.

Tobin admits that the players know what is required from them this season.

"There's always going to be pressure on the side going into the first game," he says.

"But I hope the players feel the pressure every game this season because this is a very important season for us.

"We'll put a lot of focus on the game against the Wolves and we'll be looking at turning things around.

"But you have to remember it's only one game and it's too early to say that you want to turn the season around after just one game."

Power skipper Alex Tobin: looking forward to three points against Wollongong on Saturday night at Parramatta

Peter Bennett, living life to the full at Power

a Super Soccer feature
by Ben Cubby

THE scene was Parramatta Stadium, the first of October, 1999.

8,000 people huddled in the grandstands watching local side Power make their NSL debut against Marconi.

With the scoreboard reading one-nil to the visitors and the clock ticking towards full-time, groups of disappointed Parramatta fans began moving towards the turnstiles.

But Power coach Dave Mitchell had one more ace up his sleeve.

On came Peter Bennett, with a mission to salvage something from the game.

As the referee glanced at his watch, the unheralded defender found space in the middle of the park.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, he unleashed a stunning drive.

The ball scythed 30 yards through the cold night air and found the top corner of the net.

What a goal!

Wild celebrations followed - but no one need be surprised by the manner of the equaliser.

Peter Bennett is a player who excels when the chips are down.

Words like guts, determination and mental toughness are liberally applied to elite sportsmen, but in Bennett's case they are pretty well on the mark.

Few soccer players - few people - have overcome greater obstacles to reach success.

Peter's footballing education started early - with an oval ball.

"My dad played rugby league for South Sydney and Manly", he recalls.

"We used to live in the city, but moved out to Penrith when I was still a kid.

"Out west, I started to kick a soccer ball around with my cousins.

"I started to take it more seriously from the Under 13s, when I joined the Nepean reps."

At age 16, Peter moved on to Blacktown City, who were then an NSL side.

"I made the Under 18s state team and after the national titles, I was invited to join a Young Socceroo's camp," he says.

"After a series of selection trials, the Australian youth side departed for Syria, to try and qualify for the world championships.

"We were up against teams like Qatar and Saudi Arabia."

"It was the best experience for me.

"If you talk to the guys from that era, for a lot of them it is still their most amazing experience in soccer.

"The crowds were 55,000 strong."

"The scariest thing was after the games, we'd be coming home on foot and so would thousands of hostile supporters.

"Luckily we'd lost, God knows what the crowds would have been like if we'd won."

A year with Apia-Leichhardt followed and, although the club was relegated at the end of the season, selection in the Australian Under 23 side ensured that things remained rosy for Peter.

"We were in camp in preparation for a tour of Europe", he continues.

"It was an excellent squad, all the boys were there - Milan Blagojevic, Ned (Zelic) and so on."

"Just before we left, I started experiencing severe abdominal pain.

"I had to pull out of the squad.

"I was devastated."

Peter had contracted Crohn's Disease, an infection that attacks the human digestive system.

His dreams of playing in the Barcelona Olympics were shattered, together with any semblance of a normal life.

"I didn't even know what Crohn's was when I was diagnosed," he adds.

"It is not widely known in the community, but quite a lot of people out there actually have it and don't know they do.

"The symptoms include intestinal and bowel infections."

"I was gutted.

"I was bed-ridden for a year and could barely move.

"My weight dropped from 75 kilos to about 60.

"I couldn't work for two years and had to receive benefits."

"I tried a lot of different antibiotics, some worked and some didn't.

"It was a pretty difficult time.

"My wife Leanne stuck by me, she deserves credit."

Gradually, though, Peter showed the kind of courage he displays on the football field and began to claw his way back to a state of good health.

With the help of a steroid-based medication, he managed to bring the illness under control.

"I was out of football altogether for five years, then I started to kick a ball around with some mates, just for fun," says.

"I then played a couple of years with Penrith League.

"I thought I was doing okay and I asked Lawr for a trial at Sydney United.

"It just went from there."

These days, Peter is living out a personal dre ing professional football at Parramatta Power his 150th appearance in the NSL last Saturda

Typically, he is modest about the milestone.

"It's nice to get there, because I never thou but it's the result that's important.

"The effect of Crohn's disease is that I really ate life more now.

"I live every day as it comes, because you what's going to happen tomorrow."

Penrith set to go the distance

by Adam Leto

THE upcoming Premier League season will showcase some of the most illustrious and talented players ever to play State League football.

Not all of this talent will be coming from the typical high-flyers, with sides like Penrith, Sutherland and Belconnen prepared to take a risk on young players with a lot of potential.

Having had their first taste of Premier League football mid-way through last season, many of the young guns at Penrith are looking at cementing themselves at this level.

New coach Tony Rassmussen admits that what his side lack in big-name status they make up for in enthusiasm and commitment.

"Things are very good at the moment and this year the two things that we do have are youth and fitness," Rassmussen explains.

"It could take them a bit to get adjusted but we should at the very least still be competitive.

"What we will do is not concede five or six goals like we were last season.

"We will be running for the full 90 minutes.

"Teams like Belconnen showed last season that when you do play like that things can go your way."

Fitness has been a priority for Rassmussen during pre-season but he has thrown the traditional methods out the window diversifying training techniques, keeping it interesting but at the same time effective.

"Fitness is a priority for us," he states.

"And all the guys are just so enthusiastic, they'd jump off mountains if I told them too.

"Luke O'Connell broke his hand at training last week, and we're hoping that he'll only miss one or two matches.

"He's a fitness fanatic and he was back at training this week despite his hand.

"I'm a real believer in diversity at training.

"Having said that they've got to be able to kick a ball as well and at the moment we are working on our skills."

Probably the most noticeable thing about the Panthers has been the development the club has made in terms of professionalism.

It appears as though the Panthers have learnt their lessons from last season and are taking the steps to ensure future success.

"We are trying to make it more professional, although we don't have the same finances that other clubs have," Rassmussen says.

"We will be making up for our lack of depth with youth and fitness.

"I can guarantee that we will be competitive this season and if we can improve on our position from last season than that's a bonus."

GOUGH OUT WITH CALF INJURY

RICHARD Gough has been ruled out of the Northern Spirit side after suffering a calf injury while training.

It is a massive blow for Northern Spirit, as Gough was brought out for a two-match guest stint to cover for Simon Bell and Noel Spencer, who are both suspended for the first two games.

Gough's injury has have ruled him out of action for three or four weeks and he has now left Australia in search of treatment.

It was intended that he play the first two NSL games for Northern Spirit as part of his guest agreement.

Instead the 38-year-old has returned to the USA for treatment but is hoping to come back to Sydney in January and fulfill his playing commitments to Northern Spirit. Gough, who played for Rangers, Everton, Tottenham and Scotland, during his career in the UK, is bitterly disappointed at picking up the injury just three days out from the opening match of the NSL season.

"I'm gutted," Gough said. "I was really looking forward to playing these two games but I have picked up an injury, which the medical staff have said would keep me out for a few weeks.

"I am upset that I can't play and fulfill my commitments to Northern Spirit but I do not want to do an injustice to myself or Northern Spirit by playing when I am not 100 per cent fit. "I had been training hard to get ready for the match but it is not to be. Hopefully I can come back out at another time and play a few games."

Asia switches to Under 17 and Under 20 youth competitions

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Thursday it would introduce Under 17 and Under 20 youth competitions to bring its practice into line with FIFA norms.

The decision to switch from the existing Under 16 and Under 19 events is aimed at helping Asian youth sides make more of an impact at the world level.

"This is line with the other confederations and it ensures that players in the AFC championships, which also act as qualifiers for FIFA youth tourneys, are properly geared towards the world youth championships for 17 and 20 year olds," it said.

"The AFC Youth Under 17 and Under 20 championships are expected to help Asia to prepare for the new millennium and to prove to the rest of the footballing world that Asia is the future of our beloved game."

The AFC said 43 Asian national associations have said they will be taking part in next year's youth competitions.

Twelve teams will take part in each finals--the hosts plus the winners of 11 qualifying groups.

SUPER SOCCER *your football weekly*

Granville & District Soccer Football Association Inc.

Representative Team Trials for the 2002 season

Junior League
Trials will be held at:Rydalmere Park, South Street, Rydalmere Saturday 20 & 27 October 2001
Il Years: 12pm to lpm
I2 years: 1pm to 2pm
Players wishing to be considered for selection in Junior League must reside within the GDSFA boundaries

Female Representative Teams for the 2002 season
Girls Youth League U14 & U16
Women's State League 1st Grade & U19s
Trials will be held at:
Ray Marshall Reserve Cnr Wellington Rd & Erie St, Granville South
Sundays October 7,14, 21, 28 2001

WSL lst grade & U19 lOam till 1pm
U14 & U16 Girls Youth League 2pm till 4pm

Youth League Representative Teams for the 2002 season
Youth League Division 1
Trials will be held at Rydalmere Park, South Street, Rydalmere
Sunday October 21 & 28, November 4 2001
U13 l0am to 11am, U14 11am to 12noon, Ul5 12noon to 1pm
U17 1pm to 2pm

Mens State Premier League
Trials will be held at Rydalmere Park, South Street, Rydalmere
1st Grade & Ul8
Sundays October 21 28 & November 4 2001 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Contact:-Frank Howieson 0414011 888 (Mens),
John Simmons 0414 829 518 (Mens)
Lal Byers 0407 782 341 (Ladies), Caroline Staples 0411 893 246 (Ladies)

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UNDER 12 GIRLS 9:00AM
SUNDAYS 4TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER

UNDER 18 GIRLS
10:30AM SUNDAYS 4TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER

ALLTRIALS AT
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WHAT'S IN A NAME AT UNITED

SYDNEY UNITED were the only NSL club not to feature in the action in the Grand Finals of the Super Youth and Cadet Leagues.

That's not any reflection on United themselves but more so a public who according to club liaison for the senior and junior football committee David Rezo are more concerned at getting their children to play at clubs with a bigger name.

"The reputation of a club certainly has a lot to do with it," Rezo says.

"If you look at clubs like Blacktown and Parramatta they have academies with overseas clubs and parents are taking their children to these clubs in the hope that they will get a chance to trial overseas.

"It certainly has become very competitive out there and it's becoming very difficult when you don't know what kind of inducements some clubs are giving children to come and play for them."

United certainly have one of the most attractive features when it comes to picking up junior players.

They have shown little hesitation in the past in bringing younger players through their system and into the NSL where they have then gone on to perform on a much larger stage.

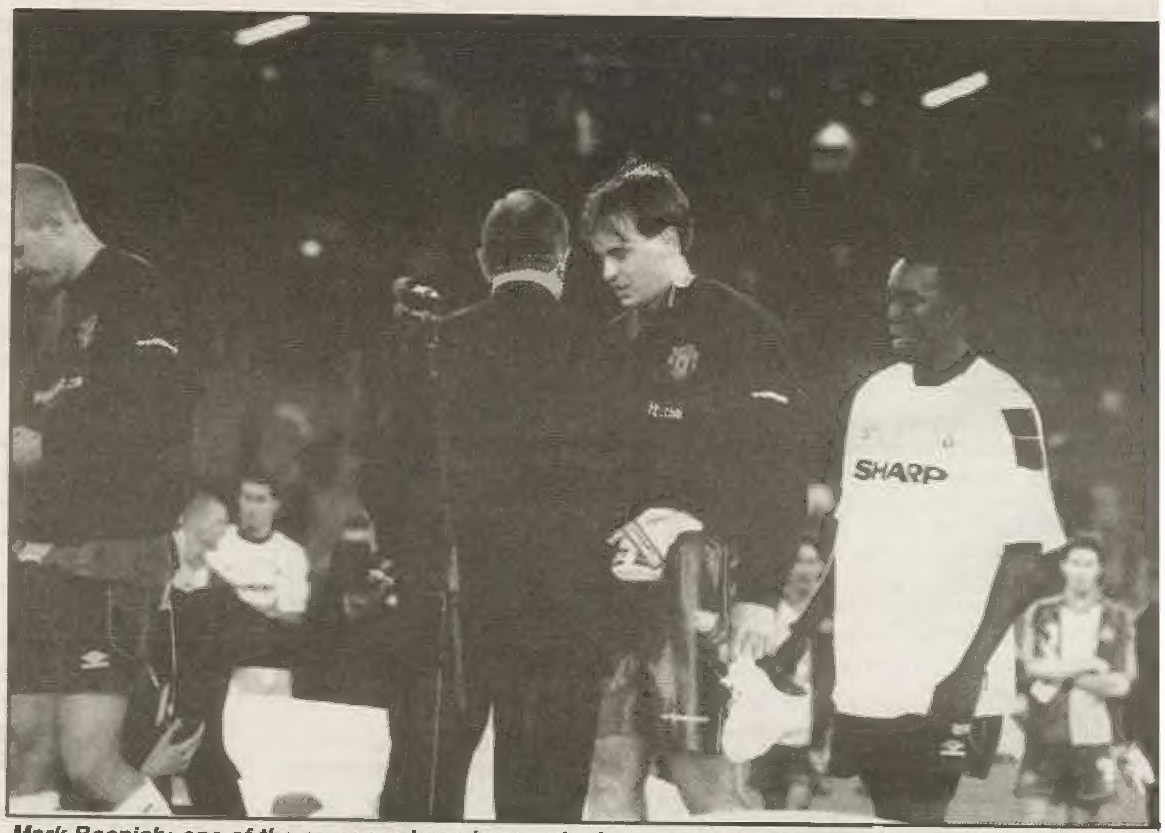
Recent players such as Eddie Bosnar, who is now playing in Austria, to guys such as Tony Popovic and Mark Bosnich are regarded as some of the best talents that Australia has produced.

They are all players who were given a chance at a young age to perform at Sydney United.

"We look after our kids here and we are giving them the chance to play for an NSL club, if you are loyal to our club then you will be looked after," Rezo says.

"Our older youth teams are probably our best, I'd say from 15s through to 17s.

"We've probably had a bit of bad publicity in the past and that has cost us."



Mark Bosnich: one of the overseas based pros who have graduated through Sydney United's youth sc

The financial situation that United faced a few years back was certainly felt by the club, from the top to the bottom where many of the nameless younger players were affected.

To their credit though things have turned around and there is now an even heavier emphasis on youth than ever before.

"We're slowly working our way back and we now have an elite academy and a youth system in place," he adds. "Our expectation is to do as well as we did this year again next year.

"We're working strongly on youth and trying back to the days wh had guys like M Bosnich and Popovi were representing country at a youth lev

"We're fighting bac slowly getting bac where we want to be.

Aussie keeper trials in Cypru

FORMER Eastern Pride goalkeeper Anthony Phassouliotis is in Cyprus on trial wi leading club Apollon Limassol.

The 22-year-old Phassouliotis has impressed management at Apollon in his trai sessions so far.

Phassouliotis was offered a contract in the NSL by a number of Sydney clubs bu has rejected them to pursue his dream of a contract overseas.

Apollon Limassol played in the UEFA Cup last week against Dutch legends Ajax lost 0-3 thereby dropping out of the competition.

However, Apollon is looking to strengthen it's squad to launch an assault on this son's Cypriot championship in order to qualify for next season's Champions Leagu

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS

Premier Youth League Trial Dates for Season 2002

Venue: Cromer Park, 101 South Creek Road, Dee Why

Under 11 & 12
Tuesday 16 October 6-8pm
Tuesday 23 October 6-8pm
Tuesday 30 October 6-8pm

Under 13 & 14
Monday 15 October 6-8pm
Monday 22 October 6-8pm
Monday 29 October 6-8pm

Under 15 & 17
Thursday 18 October 6-8pm
Thursday 25 October 6-8pm
Thursday 1 November 6-8pm

For any further information contact
John Watson, Head Coach Youth League on
9411 4866

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"THE GUNNERS"
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DIVISION 1 CADET AND YOUTH LEAGUE

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CNR OF EPPING RD AND VIMIERA RD MARSFIELD

QUALITY COACHES INCLUDING FORMER SOCCEROO
MARK KOUSSAS
U/II and U/12 10.00am
U/13 and U/14 11.3Oam
U/15 and U/17 1.00pm

ENQUIRIES CLUB SECRETARY
PAUL CECHELLERO 0412 268 952

Central Coast looking for that clinica finish to Premier Leaue football

Coach of the Coasties, Dale Eggleton is now in his third season of leading the first grade squad.

Performing in an elite league and maintaining a competitive side for an extended period means he must be doing something right.

Eggleton spent 15 years as a player with the Coasties before leaving the side and then returning this time as coach.

Watching over Dale Eggleton is older brother Jeff who is president of the Central Coast club.

Jeff has been involved in the committee of the Coasties for a number of years and is continually toiling behind the scenes.

Asked to describe their relationship, Dale Eggleton explains: "We try to keep it professional, sometimes you have to put family aside."

So no fights over the dinner table?

"No,no," he laughs.

"We don't see each other that much outside of soccer but when we do we're fine."

Super Soccer caught up with the coach of the Central Coast Coasties to get his thoughts on the upcoming Premier League season:

Super Soccer:

Dale what are the goals for the club this Premier League season?

Dale Eggleton:

"Our aim is to finish in the Top Five for both first-grade and under 19 competitions.

"In first grade last season we were competitive but just couldn't take that next step into the play-offs.

"This season I'm expecting youngsters Mitch Daley and Peter Leary to go to the next level.

"Players such as Moore, Preston, Matthews and Ritchie will be consistent as ever and I'm hoping Mick Williams will continue to score goals from midfield.

"The Coasties had the second best defensive record last season and we want to maintain that, but we need to convert more of our chances this season."

Super Soccer:

Yes, scoring was a problem for your side last season will you be changing your style this season?

Dale Eggleton:

"I don't think we'll be changing a great deal.

"I just think we need to be more clinical in our finishing.

"We were creating the chances it will just be a matter of putting away those chances.

"I'm confident we will have the right players to do that, but you have to remember that you can only work with the resources and finances that you've got."

Super Soccer:

It came as quite a shock to hear that Shane Knight had left for Bonnyrigg. What are some of the other "ins" and "outs"?

Dale Eggleton:

"Shane's departure opens the door for another player to take his place and also the captaincy.

"Dane Hokin's move to Blacktown City is still up in the air.

"We've got players such as Danny Burt, Steve Berry, Damien Smith and Carl Freeman trialing with us at the moment.

"We'll be deciding our final squad after Saturday's practice game against Leichhardt."

Super Soccer:

How much of an advantage is it playing outside of Sydney?

Dale Eggleton:

"I think that in a lot of cases playing outside of Sydney is an advantage.

"A lot of visiting teams usually stay over for the night and on a Saturday night the players' minds might be on what they're going to do or where they're going to go after the game.

"On top of that we usually get a fairly big crowd to our games and that works in our favour.

"Having said that though last year we were very good at home, but the year before our away record was better then our home record.

"I think it can get difficult when you get a big block of matcl such as three or four games i row played at home or away.

"That's when it starts to w against you."

Super Soccer:

As one of the foundation clubs the NSW Premier League, h do you see the future of the co petition?

Dale Eggleton:

"I think the future is very good.

"I applaud the move to summ if not for the simple reason th it's freezing at Pluim Park on winter's night and we could train properly.

"I think that elite players need devote themselves more to t Premier League and not play the winter so that they rema fresh for summer.

"This way we maintain an exc lent level of competition throug out the season."

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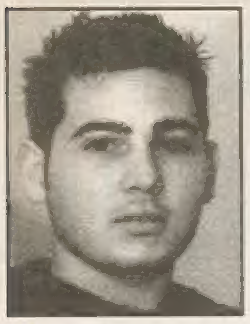


90 MINUTES WITH John Xipolitas

FOOTBALL WEEKLY'S ADAM LETO ASKS THE QUESTIONS .....

WITHIN our game there are many cultures and personalities that help make the game what it is.

Australia is a multi-cultural society and football is a perfect reflection of how races and nationalities blend together and engage as one.

The game like Australia has benefited from the arrival of the 'baby-boomers' and with them football in this country began to find its feet.

The Greeks as one part of that generation have always had an influential role in football in this country and although along the way they have had their clubs, players or board members in the headlines for probably the wrong reason, there is no doubting their passion and love of the game.

John Xipolitas has been involved with Greek clubs now for 25 years and he as much as anyone understands what goes on behind the scenes at these clubs.

FootballWeekly:
How did you first get involved in football in this country?
John Xipolitas:
"I came from Cyprus, where I played for the Cyprus national team. Canterbury-Marrickville brought me out in 1969 and I played with them for one season.

"I then returned home and then came back out to Australia and Canterbury-Marrickville along with my wife, my child and another one on the way.

"I then played with the club from 1970 to 1974.

"I started coaching in 1975 with Belmore Hercules, I then had jobs at Marrickville Olympic, Sydney Olympic youth team and then as caretaker of Sydney Olympic first grade.

"Probably my best moments came in taking Marrickville to the Grand Final, as well reaching two Waratah Cup Finals."

FootballWeekly:
Do you feel that you owe Canterbury-Marrickville something after they brought you out here?
John Xipolitas:
"If I owed them then I have felt that I have re-paid that debt to them with interest.

"I am in debt to them for what they have done for me, but then again it's not a small thing to be associated with a Greek club for 25 years."

FootballWeekly:
Greek-based clubs are seemingly always in controversy, is this just a co-incidence or do you think it is just culturally part of who you are?
John Xipolitas:
"We Greeks grew up with controversy, so I know all the tricks.

"To be honest I feel proud to still be in the business after all this time.

"Zorba once said that if you're not happy dance, don't get me wrong I don't think there is anything wrong with controversy.

"It's a good type of controversy.

"It's just that everybody likes to get involved and there is nothing wrong with that.

"We like controversy and like to look at the good side of it.

"If you look at Greek history, there was a place called Agora, where every Tom, Dick or Harry could go and have their say.

"They could say whatever they wanted and could express their feelings.

"So you could say that as Greeks it's part of our culture and everybody wants to have their say.

"The thing is that is always going everybody is entitl ion, so I think th thing."

FootballWeekly:
Do you think that w troversy that this your standing as a
John Xipolitas:
"Our club has ben troversy, we are on soccer clubs in Aus has been achieve committees in the the Greek-way of

"Sometimes rum the club, but every very proud of our

"The club has al players and alway don't owe any mo not many big club

Team effort needed by the Bull

THE Fairfield Bulls have secured one of the most sought after signatures in former Rockdale Suns midfielder and Super League Player of the Year Leo Carle.

He joins former Sydney United pair Ray Younis and Tom Maric as the Bulls newest recruits.

Player/Coach Craig Sharpley is still looking at a few other possible recruits as his side slowly begins to take shape.

When asked whether his side will continue the same entertaining form they showed through the Super League, Sharpley was forthright.

"Number one we're just going to try and get the result," he says.

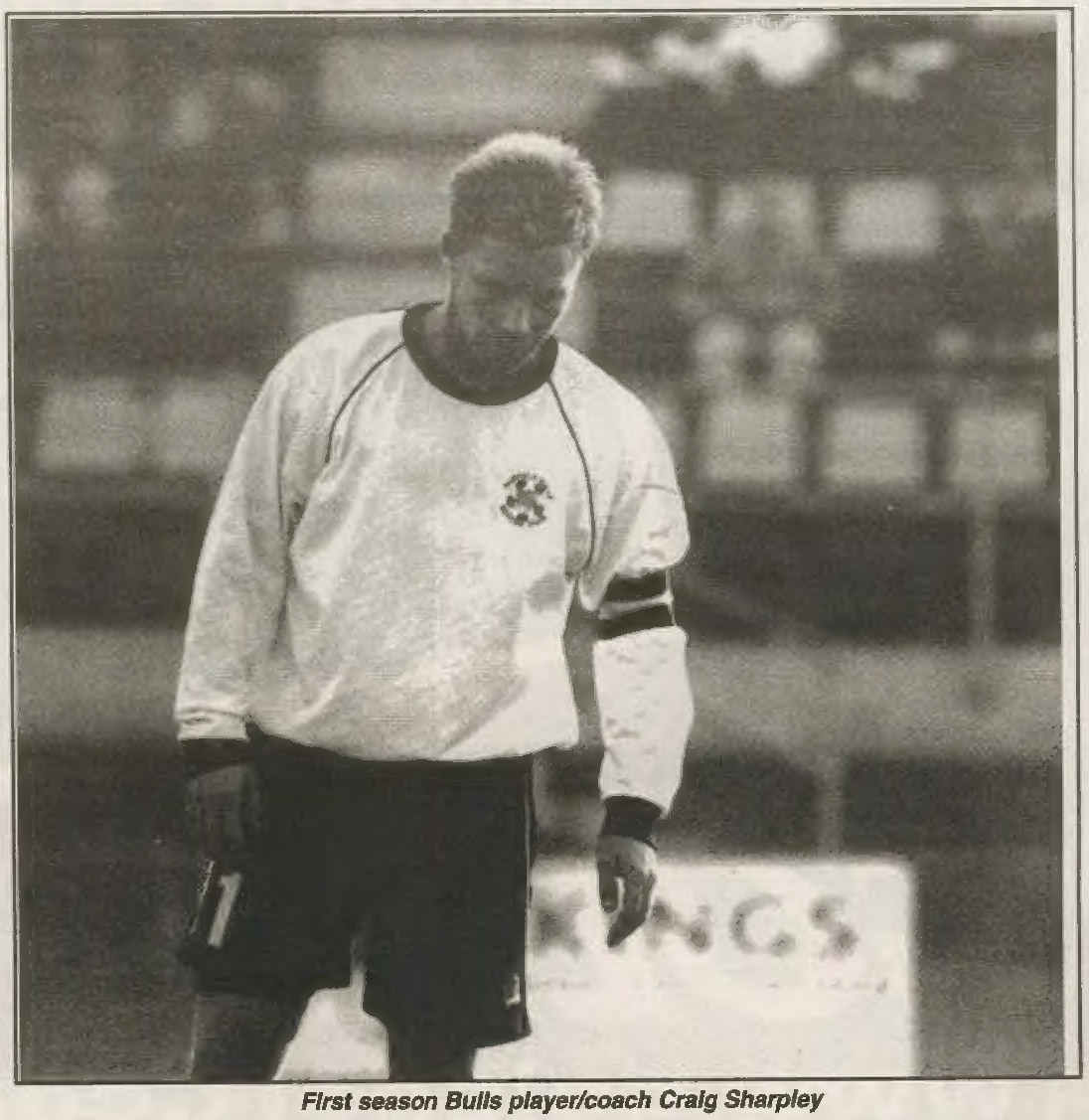
"A one nil victory at the end of the day means as much as a five nil win.

"Our preparation hasn't been ideal but we're hoping to get off to a good start because I think it might take us a few weeks to gel and get things up to scratch.

"But having said that there are no easy games in this competition all the teams are solid so it will be tough.

"I think that our boys are ready for it though and it's just a matter of fine tuning things a bit."

With a side that has plenty of depth, not to mention talent, the Bulls are expected to match it with the big-guns in the league despite this being their first year in the competition.



First season Bulls player/coach Craig Sharpley

Sharpley is less concerned about reputations and expectations preferring to concentrate on getting his side to play as a team rather than individuals.

"Individually all the players are fantastic. The main thing is to get the guys working as one unit,"

Sharpley commen

"If you look at all in any competitio as a unit.

"Who cares wha the teamsheet yo as a team, that's tant thing.

"We saw that wit season in Super had the players b results they prob because they dic sion."

With the deadly Borg and Hoensu coupled with wha to be a penetrati Bulls again shoulc ble finding the ba

About half of the from the Super L tion but Sharpley side is still a littl the edges and is of more matches season.

"We have a ver of eight or nine p with us last sea says.

"But we do nee more matches.

"It's going to league and every forward to playing

"We've got the a good shake a want to be there end of the seaso

"From there an pen."

INTRODUCING A NEW WEEKLY COVERAGE ON

SOCCER SKILLS

GOALKEEPER TECH TIPS: SMARTER TRAINING

by Jimmy Fraser
former Australian World Cup goalkeeper

KEEPERS need to be able to make saves under pressure. Here Socceroo skipper Johnny Warren puts the hard word on Israeli goalie Vissoker in a World Cup match at the Sydney Sportsground in 1969.

Every player and coach wants improvement in playing standards and while the will to improve is important we should take a little time to plan our sessions so we achieve the benefit from each session.

Firstly we should identify our weaknesses in the different areas of training.

The physical, tactical, technical and psychological areas should all be analyzed and some realistic goals set.

We must consolidate our strengths and improve any deficiencies so we are capable of playing a good all-round game.

Many players fall into the trap of setting unrealistic goals then becoming distressed and losing focus when they do not achieve their goals quickly.

Most players would like to represent Australia but this is not a short-term goal, and instead should be a goal that you aim for and build towards with a structured goal setting and training programme.

The setting of goals should be set out with a programme to reach short term, medium and long-term goals within a time frame and the training required to achieve those goals planned.

Sessions should then be planned so that we get the right mix i.e. if we have two heavy physical sessions a week and two light sessions we could have a light session to recover after a heavy session then repeat so we are physically and mentally capable of gaining the maximum benefit from all sessions.

Training time is limited so we must utilise every minute by setting out a session so we improve our game by percentages i.e. while a consistent twenty percent improvement in our game over a month might not sound feasible if we target certain areas of our techniques and improve each of these we can methodically gain an overall improvement.

When using the percentage system we should try to measure the initial percentage rate of success in each area e.g. crosses held in games or increase in a measured vertical jump.

Some areas such as the vertical jump or sprinting can be measured accurately while other areas such as crosses held depend on how many you have to deal with so we must estimate as near as possible.

Self-estimation is difficult and we must strike a balance between being too critical of ourselves and cheating by marking ourselves too high.

Remember, the one place you can't cheat is on the field so the repetitive practice that drives us all crazy at times is the only way to consolidate and impress on the field.

Using the percentage system we can expect a fairly dramatic Increase in our game after the first month but we must realize that we will not improve by the same percentage each month and all increases after that will be achieved through hard work and a dedication to training.

We should be aiming at a steady increase In improving our percentages and don't be to disappointed if at times the increase is slow.

Young players who are still developing physically often go through stages where they become unco-ordinated because of their growth paflem and this will affect performance In many cases.

Add this to the other influences such as pressure to achieve at school, learning to drive, boys noticing girls and visa versa, all of these things and many more put pressure on players focusing on reaching their goals.

While these outside influences should not be a cop-out to non-acheivment, like any other areas that detracts from us reaching our goals, they should be recognized and dealt with so we maintain our focus.

To successfully improve our game we must learn to analyze our games and training and pinpoint any problem areas.

Firstly when you do make a mistake realize that all players at every level do make mistakes and while we must minimize the mistakes to improve don't self-destruct by being overcritical of yourself.

No player is that good that they will never make mistakes so don't put yourself on an unattainable pedestal.

Players who waste time and energy on this type of behavior are less likely to achieve, undermine their own confidence and show their coach and selectors a weakness in their game that is as important as any technique that they practice.

After we pinpoint the problem areas we must analyze what happened in the lead-up to the problem and what techniques could have been utilized to correct the problem.

Would we have eliminated the problem by being quicker off the line and intercepting the ball?

Were we standing flat-footed or ball watching making us slower to react; was our approach run wrong or not strong enough to save us being knocked off the bail?

Analysis should focus on identifying the problem area and then structuring a practice session to correct It in future games.

More on smarter training next week.

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ANGELO COSTANZO

by Adam Leto

SOME people regard the task of defending the easiest position to cover on the football pitch.

How hard is it to follow one man, dive in and tackle when you need to and if the ball comes to you clear the ball upfield.

Defenders do not need to have close ball skills, speed or be able to shoot from 30 yards out like the midfielders or strikers.

Yeah, defenders are seemingly just there to make up the numbers at the back, feed the ball to the midfielders and hopefully not let in too many goals.

Fortunately most coaches don't support this theory with most if not all believing that the back four or five are the most important players on the park.

A defender that has disproven the traditional traits of a defender is Marconi back-man Angelo Costanzo.

The skillful defender who is also more than capable in midfield is a reflection of today's modern defender in that as well as thwarting rival attacks he can create and even score himself.

Part of that may have to do with the fact that he first started playing as a striker.

"As a junior I started playing as a striker, before moving into midfield and defence," Costanzo explains.

"I just guess it's in defence where most coaches see me as playing."

Having grown up in Adelaide, where he has spent 24 years of his life he moved to Sydney two years ago.

Costanzo is very much a family man which isn't surprising considering he comes from a very traditional Italian up-bringing.

He is the type of man that makes the right decisions not only on the pitch but in life, and in the small amount of time I spent talking to him I was left with little doubt that he gets the greatest satisfaction out of the simpler things.

"I lived in Adelaide for 24 years and before I moved to Sydney it was the first time I'd lived anywhere else," he says.

"It was hard to come here but the people I have met here have been very good to me and have made it easier.

"It's a lot quicker here, but on the pitch it's still the same.

"A good thing is that you don't have to travel as much because most of the clubs we play against are in Sydney."

Costanzo has proven himself at this level, and was rewarded for his good form last season with his first Australian cap.

Whilst his first game against Columbia wasn't the most impressive performance by the Socceroos (they went down 3-2) Costanzo was just pleased to be able to be included in such an elite group.

"I think it was a relief more than anything, I was very nervous in my first game against Columbia," he admits.

"After five or six years playing in the NSL it was just great to get picked.

"When Frank rang me and told me I had been chosen I thought someone was playing a joke on me."

It was no joke and on top of being chosen to represent his country Costanzo was also voted as Marconi player of the year. At 25 years of age Costanzo is hoping to continue his form this season in his hope to become a regular in the National squad.

"When you're a kid you always dream of playing overseas or for Australia, it has always been a wish for me," Costanzo says.

"You always think that you can do it, you just need the opportunity, but there is always some doubt especially if you play a bad game or something.

"Locally there are a lot of good players who can play for Australia but are just unlucky.

"I'm just going to keep trying to play well for Marconi and I still want to play overseas one day as well."

A proud Australian, there is little doubt that Costanzo's Italian background still remains a heavy influence.

A big fan of Franco Baresi, Costanzo is concentrating on starting his own family with the birth of his son only days away.

"My partner Helen is due to give birth to a baby boy within the next week, so I'd like to be able to spend more time with him," he says.

"My family have had a big influence on my career as well as Chris Manoluve who is a junior coach that I had in Adelaide for about six or seven years."

Costanzo seems headed for bigger things but if international stardom beckons or if he plays out the rest of his career in Australia one thing will remain certain.

Costanzo's feet will remain firmly planted to the ground. That's the type of person he is.

Name: Angelo Costanzo
Favourite Movie: The Godfather
Age: 25
Favourite Food: Italian
Occupation: Footballer
Favourite Music: Bon Jovi
Position: Defender
Person I'd like to meet: Franco Baresi
First Club: Salsbury United
Ambitions: To be successful in whatever I do
Played for: Azzuri, Adelaide City, Marconi
Best part of game: Tackling
If you could have three things on a deserted island: Partner, Food and Drink

EDDIE KRNCEVIC ON ANGELO COSTANZO

Last season we saw the development of Angelo Costanzo from a stable National League player to one of the superstars in the game in Australia.

Eddie Krncevic in charge of the Stallions last season witnessed Costanzo's development.

"He's certainly a talented boy, but he's a lazy trainer," he says.

"He's got a great future though either here or overseas, he's a great character.

"He was a pleasure to coach and he did really well last season, I think that he's an important part of their team and I guess whichever team he plays for.

"Angelo is the type of guy who always gives 200 percent, he's like a lion."

Off the field Krncevic admits that Costanzo is much more relaxed.

"He's just a good person," he says.

"He's very laid-back and definitely very approachable."

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Farina targetted by Japan, defends Okon

SOCCEROO coach Frank Farina has revealed that Paul Okon is not being frozen out of Middlesbrough's first team by boss Steve McClaren.

Fears had arisen that McClaren was keeping Okon away from first team action because of his unswerving commitment to Australia's World Cup cause.

But Farina revealed: "Paul can do a job for us even if he isn't playing regularly in the Premiership.

"He did have an injury but I've talked to him and he's fit and battling to get back into the Middlesbrough side.

"He told me Middlesbrough had been on a roll before the Southampton game at the weekend and their manager was understandably reluctant to change a winning team."

Farina has been criticised in some quarters for not settling his differences with Ned Zelic, although it is clear tat he prefers Okon in the key midfield position.

But while Okon is going through an unsettled patch with Middlesbrough, Zelic is in fine form for his German club side, TSV Munchen 1860.

The first real test for Farina's bid to reach the World Cup finals will come with a friendly against France in november.

Okon is expected to skipper the side for the all-important pre-World Cup game.

Meanwhile, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has been banned from a French football meeting.

The action was taken by organisers, Amicale des Educateurs, because of Wenger's stance against the release of Arsenal players for France's friendly in Australia on November 11.

The Gunners boss was to address the national coaching association on his experiences in England, but revealed at the weekend: "I confess I do not understand it.

"I find the whole thing rather laughable.

"After all, I was doing something to help them.

"The only thing I have done is to say spontaneously that I did not agree with the Australia match - and I am not alone.

"The whole of Europe thinks it is an aberration.

"Whoever has a bit of sense in France must think the same way."

Pierre Repellini, vice-president of the coaches union, said: "If Arsene became French national coach one day he would want us all behind him on this kind of issue.

"We have to protect the French team of which we are very proud.

"Arsene is actually better off with his French players than our club coaches, who have had to release all foreign players of several nationalities for World Cup qualifiers twice in a few days."

France coach Roger Lemerre has insisted his country's international soccer friendly in Australia next month will go ahead despite the criticism the match has received.

Lemerre stresses his team has a right to prepare for next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea like any other country.

As holders, France has automatically qualified for the finals and is warming up for the event with a series of friendly internationals.Several clubs, especially those in the English Premier League, have called the 20,000-kilometre round-trip a wasted journey, saying it will leave the players exhausted and damage their clubs' interests.

A large number of the French squad ply their trade in England and a petition has been circulated around Premier League clubs calling for the match to be played on English soil, either at Arsenal's Highbury or Manchester United's Old Trafford ground.

"I consider this petition to be anti-French and there are quite a few people who don't want us to go to Australia, saying we are stupid to do so," said a clearly irritated Lemerre.

"Well this does not worry me and I'm ready to be considered a fool, but the bottom line is that France has a right to prepare for the World Cup finals like any other country

."Does anyone have the power to bar a free nation from travelling abroad?"

The soft-spoken Lemerre added that unless soccer's governing body, FIFA, calls the match off, the team will travel to Australia as planned.

"I want what's best for France and I always try to pick the strongest squad available," he said.

"If that means selecting four players from Arsenal then so be it, as national coach, I have the right to pick any French player.

"This match was planned a long time ago and nobody complained when it was scheduled.

"I'm appalled that some people have the audacity to ask Australia to come to Europe instead of us going there."

The players themselves have refused to get involved in the dispute, instead preferring to say that it was their duty to be present for international fixtures.

"Obviously we are going to spend a lot of time on a plane for just 90 minutes on the pitch," said Real Madrid playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

"But this match is on our

timetable and we must play it."

Arsenal midfielder Robert Pires also put his hand up for national duty

."The trip comes at a bad time for us, but if the coach called me up I'd go," he said.

"I might be tired but there is a bit of time after the fixture to recover and it is our duty to represent our country.

"On the other hand I can understand (Arsenal coach) Arsene Wenger's position.

"Arsenal have a lot of international players and it's not that easy to deal with."

Lemerre has stressed that although he sympathises with club coaches, he would like the matter to be closed soon.

"Everybody has a right to express himself but I would like to see an end to this dispute as soon as possible, it helps nobody," Lemerre said.

And in Australia the subject of national boss Frank Farina's contract also hit the press.

Farina, whose $125,000-a-year contract expires at the end of November, has been approached by Italian Serie B clubs with coaching offers of up to $1 million.

Currently Farina is overseas checking out Uruguay, Australia's likely World Cup elimination qualifier opponent.

Soccer Australia deputy chairman Greg Woods has said that SA will not enter a bidding war for Farina's future services.

Woods said SA was in no financial state to match such a package.

"Unless there was some very large commercial benefactor prepared to come forward ... that would be a very difficult task to meet," Woods said.

Farina has also fielded offers worth more than $500,000 from Japanese J-League clubs.

The latest international overture comes after SA's failure to shore-up the 37-year-old beyond the current World Cup qualifying campaign, although it is certain he will oversee the Socceroos there if it's successful.

"The chairman (Ian Knop) has had discussions with Frank Farina and I think the outcome of those discussions were pretty positive," Woods said.

"Frank is a very valuable asset to soccer in Australia - there's no argument about that.

"I don't think with soccer we need to close off any doors whether it be in relation to Frank Farina or anybody else so far as contract renewal is concerned."

Farina, who enjoys massive support at the grass roots and club levels of the game, has a strong record as coach of the Socceroos, amassing 17 wins from 30 games, including wins over world champions France and Brazil.

At this stage he has put on ice any overseas offers, preferring to concentrate on Australia's campaign to qualify for the World Cup which culminates with matches against the fifth-placed South American team in November.

PREMIER LEAGUE BRIEFS

With the NSW Premier League kicking-off in just over one week, clubs are busily preparing for their assault on the title.

Blacktown City has added Luciano Berbis from Western Rage and Kain Rastall from Sydney United to their squad.

The Demons have also been linked with Naoki Imaya following his stint in the NSL and Japan.

2000 Super League Golden Boot, Mark Hagger, seems likely to sign with Parramatta Power.

The Central Coast will finalise their squad following a trial game against Leichhardt last Saturday at Budgewoi.

The Coasties have lost Shane Knight to Bonnyrigg but have the likes of Steve Berry, Damian Smith, Carl Freeman and Danny Burt trying out.

The gossip from Pluim Park is that ex-Cosmos skipper Robbie Hooker will also be playing for the Lisarow club next season.

Bonnyrigg has signed Peter Cklamovski from Rockdale City, John Kyriazopoulos from Canterbury-Marrickville, Matt Mikhaill from Northern Spirit, Shane Knight from Central Coast and Ivan Necevski from Penrith Panthers.

Parramatta Eagles looked to have recruited the best by snapping up the likes of Jim Bakis from Fraser Park, Mirko Jurilj from Sydney United, Daniel Kukucka from Parramatta Power, Anthony Mondello from Marconi Stallions and Glenn Sprod from Newcastle United.

In a recent trial match Parramatta Eagles lost 2-0 to current NSL Champions, Wollongong Wolves in a highly entertaining game, and on then the Eagles beat Central Coast 2-0 with Danial Cummins and Mauncio Islas being the scorers.

Last season's surpnse packet Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic have secured the signatures of Steven and Peter Biviano from Sydney Olympic, George Bouhoutsos from Sydney Olympic, Samuel Falanga from AC United, Hussein Jomaa from Hurstville City, Christian Ortiz from Belmore Hercules and Anthony Ucchino from AC United.

SOCCERBLUES: John Crawley

LAST year New South Wales made a serious return to state representative football. A match against Queensland was followed by further games against Victoria and then Queensland at The Gabbie. And with a forthcoming tour of New Caledonia on the cards we continue our series on the players who made the elite squad.

Adam Leto reports.

Curent NSW state goalkeeper John Crawley

FOOTBALL hasn't always been John Crawley's calling.

But once he started the talented keeper certainly hasn't looked back.

"I first started playing rugby league, and I'm a twin, my brother wanted to play soccer so I went along," Crawley explains.

"There were five kids in our family and our parents were always lugging us around so we all had to sort of play the same sport.

"We both trialled for the Super Squad at Parklea under David Lee and I got through and made it and my brother decided that he then wanted to play cricket."

Crawley has shown that he has all the traits that a keeper should have.

He is a good organiser and communicator, facets that he identifies as being his strong points.

But it is difficult to find a weakness as Crawley has made it a point to work on all parts of his game, not just things that he enjoys doing.

"If you don't work on all parts of your game you can fall into bad habits," he says.

"I think that I have a good work ethic and it's all about getting into good habits.

"I communicate well and I like to think that I can influence a match without the ball having to reach me."

At 29 Crawley's career has littered with plenty of highs, mention a fair share of disap ment.

A tour to South America w NSW Under 17s, led to C staying on in Chile for the n years before returnin Australia.

"I played in Chile with Col and played in their youth as part of the first grade s he says.

"I then went on loan to second division clubs returning to the first grade

"I only played a han games in the first grade b the national keeper was choice so it was difficult.

"It was a big culture sh myself, when I first went had only just turned 18 ar have too much connecti people who didn't speak f

"I'm now pretty flu Spanish."

Crawley returned to and trialled with a few N but finding a club mid-sea always going to be difficu

"I had a year off in '97,"

"I just became disillusio the game and I think it wa to me.

"I then came back Macarthur Rams in '98 under coach Casey Del then had a stint with United where I played th games before breaking and missing the rest of son."

He's been at Blackt since and having just co sports psychology degr versity is looking to p good use.

"I've been doing some now for the past four or and it's definitely somet to get into," he says.

"I'd also like to play a est level and I'd still li that I can play in the NS I still have something t

Name: John Crawley
Age:29
Occupation: Coach
Ambitions: Play at the highest level, speak another language fluently and play the piano within 20 years
Best Part of Game: Organisation, communication, one-on-ones
Why Soccer: Why not?
Favourite player: Peter Schmeichel
Favourite Music: Anything South American, groovy chill-out
Person I Admire: Paul Bentvelzen
Person I'd like to Meet: No one in particular. Everyone's special
Hobbies: Reading, coffee, coaching
Advice to Children: Work out what you want to do and don't let anyone stand in your way. You will achieve it if you're willing to put in the hard yards.

Viller hurt by Beckham World Cup goal

COACH Rudi Voller spoke of the "hurt" he and his side felt after David Beckham's injury-time goal robbed Germany of a place in next year's World Cup finals.

The Germans had the lion's share of possession and chances against Finland - captain Oliver Bierhoff striking the woodwork twice and seeing an effort cleared off the line in Gelsenkirchen.

But Voller's side now need to come through a play-off with Ukraine next month if they are to join England in Japan and South Korea next year.

Voller said: "The team is very disappointed. The way they played in the second half, was just great.

"You can't really blame them. They have tried everything compared to the first half. In the first half we were still very insecure and had the 1-5 against England in our heads.

"I am very sure though, that we will qualify through these play-offs. It hurts me, it hurts the team, but all that does not matter now. We have to look ahead to the next games."

The pattern of the game was set in the first minute when Germany forced a corner through the industry of Sebastian Deisler - but it came to nothing.

Three minutes later Finland - and England - were relieved when Oliver Neuville was harshly adjudged offside, while Michael Ballack was just unable to make the right contact with a 15th-minute cross from Joerg Boehme.

But the Finns threatened in the 17th minute when Chelsea striker Mikael Forssell latched onto a ball from Liverpool's Jari Litmanen - only to be ruled marginally offside.

And eight minutes later only a last-ditch challenge by central defender Jens Novotny denied Finland's Mika Nurmela a clear shot at Oliver Kahn's goal.

Finland forced four corners in the space of a couple of minutes past the half-hour mark - but the best the visitors could produce from the mini-spell of pressure was a header from Liverpool defender Sami Hyypia which sailed over the bar.

German spirits were raised by news of Charisteas' goal for Greece against England - which gave Voller's men the advantage in the two-way tussle for automatic qualification for next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

But Finland continued to look the more positive on the pitch and Kahn was forced to make a good low save in the 38th minute when Janne Saarinen's free-kick took an awkward deflection off Carsten Ramelow.

And Bierhoff should hav scoring in the 68th minut found him with a long yards out he blasted his at Niemi.

News of England's e Greece's second goal a filtered around the stadiu

Bierhoff was denied a goal when Hearts st palmed his chip shot o work - Neuville was un the rebound into the net stituted soon after.

Finnish hopes were nc 85th minute when Forss off the pitch after chall ball with Ziege - and t used all three of their s

The striker returned lowing treatment - but the scoreline.

WHITE EAGLES LOOK TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH INJURIES

by Adam Leto

Bonnyrigg, pictured after winning last season's inaugural Premier League Grand Final

THE Bonnyrigg White-Eagles looking to defend last year's Premier League title have had a few set-backs in their preparation.

Firstly key defender Tayfun Devrimol could miss the entire season after damaging ligaments in his knee, although a full diagnosis has yet to determine the extent of the injury.

If it is as serious as thought then the absence of Devrimol at the back would be a huge blow.

Especially considering that along with fellow team-mate Devrim Huseyin and St.George's Michael Kladis were the only three players to be chosen in both state teams in the Premier League and Super League.

Another concern for the White Eagles is the injury to keeper Fernando Greco who will be sidelined until December.

Despite the injuries, coach Greg Woodhouse is still optimistic heading into the season.

"We're travelling not too bad, we've had a couple of big injuries as well as a few niggling injuries," he explains.

"We're not quite there yet, but we will work our way through it.

"We've got Bobby Dragas back and we're only missing two players from last season's Grand Final team."

Not content on resting on their laurels Woodhouse has gone about trying to establish a team that will still be competing for the title in years to come.

This year will see the blooding of some younger players who will no doubt add some enthusiasm to the White Eagles outfit.

"We've picked up a few younger boys to strengthen the squad," Woodhouse says.

"We're trying to build a squad for three to four year's time and having these young boys come through will help in that.

"Stan Ackerley is here and he has done a lot of work with the juniors and he has plenty of experience.

"Him coming from Penrith has been their loss and our gain."

Woodhouse admits that the job certainly is ahead of him but with the right people behind him and the players he has, is hoping that the job will get done.

"I'm basically only a first-time coach," he confesses.

"I took over the side mid-way through last season but this is my first full season.

"I've probably got one of the toughest jobs in the competition.

"I'm fortunate though to have a good coaching staff in Stan Ackerley and Nick Bilbija around who have experience and all work together.

"The club is pretty demanding as most successful clubs are and the emphasis will again be on winning the title.

"It's going to be a lot tougher competition this season, but we'll be hoping to get off to a good start.

"I just hope that the supporters can be a bit patient with us, especially considering the injuries we have at the moment."

SILVESTRE: I'M GETTING THE BLAME AT MAN U

Manchester United defender Mikael Silvestre feels bitter because he believes he has been blamed for the champions' shaky start to the season.

The French World Cup defender is at odds with United manager Sir Alex Ferguson over tactics, and told the News Of The World: "We've let in a lot of goals already this season which I have been blamed for but I believe they've been coming through the middle of the field.

"But it is me who has paid the price and I am very bitter. I'm going through some very hard times at the moment and I don't think it's fair.

"I want to let it all out and say what I really think but I have to hold myself back a lot because it will only make things worse."

Silvestre, a £4million signing from Inter Milan in September 1999, also believes he is being played out of position.

The 24-year-old added: "The World Cup is only just around the corner and, with the French team in mind, it would be better for me playing in the centre of defence - but I'm not."

"I have to be careful, but I don't agree with the manager's assessment. When we look at the way we play on a TV screen, Ferguson tells me things but I don't see the same problems."

2001/02 NSW PREM

ROUND 1 19-21 Oct

Canterbury Marrickville V Blacktown City
Penrith Panthers V Sutherland Sharks
Fairfield Bulls V Leichhardt Tigers
Bonnyrigg WE V Belconnen Blue Devils
Central Coast Coasties V Bankstown City Lions
Parramatta Eagles V St George Saints

ROUND 2 26-28 Oct

St George Saints V Fairfield Bulls
Bonnyrigg WE V Parramatta Eagles
Belconnen Blue Devils V Bankstown City Lions
Blacktown City Demons V Central Coast
Sutherland Sharks V Canterbury Marrickville
Leichhardt Tigers V Penrith Panthers

ROUND 3 3-4 Nov

Fairfield Bulls V Bonnyrigg WE
Belconnen Blue Devils V Blacktown City Demons
Central Coast Coasties V Sutherland Sharks
Penrith Panthers V Canterbury Marrickville
Leichhardt Tigers V St George Saints
Parramatta Eagles V Bankstown City Lions

ROUND 4 9-10 Nov

St George Saints V Penrith Panthers
Canterbury Marrickville V Central Coast Coasties
Bankstown City Lions V Fairfield Bulls
Bonnyrigg WE V Leichhardt Tigers
Blacktown City Demons V Parramatta Eagles
Sutherland Sharks V Belconnen Blue Devils

ROUND 5 15-18 Nov

St George Saints V Bonnyrigg WE
Fairfield Bulls V Blacktown City Demons
Belconnen Blue Devils V Canterbury Marrickville
Penrith Panthers V Central Coast Coasties
Parramatta Eagles V Sutherland Sharks
Leichhardt Tigers V Bankstown City Lions

ROUND 6 30-1 Dec

Canterbury Marrickville V Parramatta Eagles
Sutherland Sharks V Fairfield Bulls
Blacktown City Demons V Leichhardt Tigers
Bankstown City Lions V St George Saints
Bonnyrigg WE V Penrith Panthers
Central Coast Coasties V Belconnen Blue Devils

ROUND 7 7-9 Dec

St George Saints V Blacktown City Demons
Fairfield Bulls V Canterbury Marrickville
Penrith Panthers V Belconnen Blue Devils
Bonnyrigg WE V Bankstown City Lions
Parramatta Eagles V Central Coast Coasties
Leichhardt Tigers V Sutherland Sharks

ROUND 8 14-15 Dec

Canterbury Marrickville V Leichhardt Tigers
Central Coast Coasties V Fairfield Bulls
Sutherland Sharks V St George Saints
Blacktown City Demons V Bonnyrigg WE
Bankstown City Lions V Penrith Panthers
Belconnen Blue Devils V Parramatta Eagles

ROUND 9 4-6 Jan

St George Saints V Canterbury Marrickville
Fairfield Bulls V Belconnen Blue Devils
Bonnyrigg WE V Sutherland Sharks
Bankstown City Lions V Blacktown City Demons
Penrith Panthers V Parramatta Eagles
Leichhardt Tigers V Central Coast Coasties

ROUND 10 11-13 Jan

Canterbury Marrickville V Bonnyrigg WE
Central Coast Coasties V St George Saints
Sutherland Sharks V Bankstown City Lions
Penrith Panthers V Blacktown City Demons
Parramatta Eagles V Fairfield Bulls
Belconnen Blue Devils V Leichhardt Tigers

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19-20 Jan

lconnen Blue Devils
enrith Panthers
tral Coast Coasties
Canterbury Marrickville
V Sutherland Sharks
Parramatta Eagles

25-27 Jan

Parramatta Eagles
ls V Bonnyrigg WE
Central Coast Coasties
nterbury Marrickville
Penrith Panthers
V Fairfield Bulls

1-3 Feb

V Sutherland Sharks
St George Saints
Leichhardt Tigers
Belconnen Blue Devils
es V Blacktown City
V Bonnyrigg WE

8-9 Feb

le V Penrith Panthers
Leichhardt Tigers
V Fairfield Bulls
V Parramatta Eagles
V Belconnen Blue Devils
entral Coast Coasties

16-17 Feb

nkstown City Lions
V Sutherland Sharks
St George Saints
Canterbury Marrickville
lacktown City Demons
V Bonnyrigg WE

ROUND 16 23 Feb

Canterbury Marrickville V Belconnen Blue Devils
Blacktown City Demons V Fairfield Bulls
Bankstown City Lions V Leichhardt Tigers
Bonnyrigg WE V St George Saints
Sutherland Sharks V Parramatta Eagles
Central Coast Coasties V Penrith Panthers

ROUND 17 1-3 Mar

St George Saints V Bankstown City Lions
Fairfield Bulls V Sutherland Sharks
Belconnen Blue Devils V Central Coast Coasties
Penrith Panthers V Bonnyrigg WE
Parramatta Eagles V Canterbury Marrickville
Leichhardt Tigers V Blacktown City Demons

ROUND 18 8-9 Mar

Canterbury Marrickville V Fairfield Bulls
Sutherland Sharks V Leichhardt Tigers
Blacktown City Demons V St George Saints
Bankstown City Lions V Bonnyrigg WE
Central Coast Coasties V Parramatta Eagles
Belconnen Blue Devils V Penrith Panthers

ROUND 19 15-17 Mar

St George Saints V Sutherland Sharks
Fairfield Bulls V Central Coast Coasties
Bonnyrigg WE V Blacktown City Demons
Penrith Panthers V Bankstown City Lions
Parramatta Eagles V Belconnen Blue Devils
Leichhardt Tigers V Canterbury Marrickville

ROUND 20 22-24 Mar

Canterbury Marrickville V St George Saints
Belconnen Blue Devils V Fairfield Bulls
Central Coast Coasties V Leichhardt Tigers
Sutherland Sharks V Bonnyrigg WE
Blacktown City Demons V Bankstown City Lions
Parramatta Eagles V Penrith Panthers

ROUND 21 28-31 Mar

St George Saints V Central Coast Coasties
Fairfield Bulls V Parramatta Eagles
Bonnyrigg WE V Canterbury Marrickville
Bankstown City Lions V Sutherland Sharks
Blacktown City Demons V Penrith Panthers
Leichhardt Tigers V Belconnen Blue Devils

ROUND 22 6 Apr

Penrith Panthers V Fairfield Bulls
Parramatta Eagles V Leichhardt Tigers
Belconnen Blue Devils V St George Saints
Central Coast Coasties V Bonnyrigg WE
Canterbury Marrickville V Bankstown City Lions
Sutherland Sharks V Blacktown City Demons

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Gremio tops at Masc

IT'S been a busy week at Mascot indoor centre with the Grand Final in the Central Division One played on Tuesday night between Gremio and D-Tox.

Indoor Central was established in 1999, and is currently the biggest indoor soccer centre in the metropolitan east housing three full-size soccer courts.

From it's humble beginnings the centre now caters for all competitions with men, women and mixed.

Tuesday night's Grand Final was the culmination of what had been an exciting competition with any one of four or five teams capable of taking out the title.

In the end though it was the skill of Gremio that prevailed over D-Tox.

The standard on show was certainly high and both sides proved to be deserved finalists and they certainly put on a game to remember.

Gremio had gone through the entire competition only losing the one match so going into the final they were obvious favourites.

They didn't have things their own way however and the D-Tox boys certainly stood their ground.

Going into the break the scores were locked at two goals a piece and the game was there for the taking.

It was the favourites Gremio who lifted a gear and mid-way through the second half showcased their dazzling Brazilian skill the title 7-2.

In other competitions ing the week there are teams who are looki take out the title.

These are Staff Sydenham Shooters Coast Magic. They are respective competitior few rounds to go the face some stiff oppo title.

Competitions at Mas days a week and an wishing to compete a welcome to do so.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

KELLYVILLE INDOOR
New competition registrations are being taken for Under 6 to Under 17s, boys and girls and all ag

ROOTY HILL LEISURE CENTRE
New competitions commence soon for boys and girls Under 6 to adults.
Competitions are played Mondays to Fridays.

MACQUARIE TOWNS
New men's competitions commence in September. Registrations are being taken for Under 6 to U boys and girls, all aged men's and ladies plus mixed.

ALBION PARK - SHELLHARBOUR CITY STADIUM
Registration dates include Wedensday and Friday from 4.30 to 7.30pm. All age juniors start at si years. Senior men's comps are also scheduled.

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Footballer's Ankle

by Andrew Harper
Physiotherapist, Valentine Park Sports Medicine Centre

THE sudden and sometimes violent forces borne through the ankle joint during a game of soccer can have an affect on the ankle over a player's career.

Repeated forcing of the ankle joint into a "toe point" position in activities such as shooting and 50/50 tackling leads to an over-stretching of the structures at the front of the ankle and the subsequent inflammation can lead to calcification of this area.

Likewise the repetitive flexing of the ankle in activities such as running and landing from a jump can lead to inflammation and pain in the front of the ankle due to compression of the bones and pinching of the soft tissue in between them.

Collectively, over time, this chronic inflammation can lead to the formation of bony spurs at the front of the ankle that cause pain whenever the ankle is compressed.

This condition can be diagnosed through the history of the patient but will usually require an x-ray to show the build up of spurs on the front of the ankle bones.

Treatment of such a condition involves physiotherapy to mobilise the ankle joint and surrounding soft tissues as well as stretching, taping and regular ice.

If the spurs are too big, they may require surgical excision and a physiotherapy rehab programme after surgery.

Valentine Park Sports Medicine Centre is ideally placed to treat this or any other injuries you may have. Our experienced health professionals provide Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Sports Massage services and specialise in soccer.

They are conveniently located at the home NSW Soccer at Valentine Park Glenwood.

SHIN SORENESS

by Andrew Harper
Physiotherapist, Valentine Park Sports Medicine Centre

AS THE summer season approaches, players are either in heavy training for the summer comp or thinking about doing some running to keep fit for next winter. Either way an emphasis on running can lead to shin soreness whether it be on the road or on the grass.

Differentiating the exact nature of the injury is sometimes difficult although it may be necessary in order to treat the condition effectively.

There are three common causes for shin soreness, all of which are often known as "shin splints".

Tenoperiostitis: Inflammation of the membranes covering the bone and the muscular fascia that attaches along the medial edge of the shin bone. Usually diagnosed by its symptoms.

Stress Fracture: The cumulative effect of small, repetitive strains to the bone that result in defects in the bone known as microfractures. Usually diagnosed by a bone scan.

Chronic Compartment Syndrome: As blood flows into the compartments of the leg during exercise, the thick fascia surrounding the compartment fails to stretch sufficiently such that nerve and blood vessels are compressed, causing pain and sometimes numbness. Pressure needle testing may be necessary for diagnosis.

If you do develop shin pain get it diagnosed and treated properly however avoiding injury is always the best solution.

The two keys to avoiding shin pain are to correct poor biomechanics (especially pronating feet), and to ensure any planned increases in training loads are introduced gradually.

Valentine Park is a new Sports Medicine Clinic set up specifically to deal with this and any other sporting injuries you may suffer.

They are situated within the NSW Soccer Federation premises at Valentine Park, Glenwood and offer a first class sports injury service by experienced health professionals who love soccer.

Aching Bodies

The N.S.W. School of Therapeutic Massage offers one hour massages from as little as $20 with students every Thursday and Saturday at their regular Swedish & Remedial Clinics or $60 in a private treatment room with one of their fully qualified practitioners.

Over the next few weeks it will be possible to try Shiatsu Massage (Japanese style massage using thumb and elbow pressure through your clothing - feels great and definitely worth a try) or Sports Massage (deep tissue massage great for injuries and chronic pain) with their highly trained students.

The N.S.W. School of Therapeutic Massage has specialised in teaching massage therapy since 1985, becoming Sydney's top professional massage school.

This highly professional healing and energy centre has an excellent reputation for producing graduates of a very high standard.

The school prides itself in maintaining an intimate and friendly atmosphere by limiting class sizes.

Students learn to give a professional therapeutic massage focussing on holistic well-being.

Studying part-time, it currently takes only 10 weeks to complete the Swedish massage certificate or 15 months to complete the full diploma to become a professional massage therapist.

There's nothing more rewarding, satisfying o life-enriching than helping to heal people and with Massage Therapy being a popular part of most people's health regime there's always a great demand for qualified massage therapists.

The school is enrolling now for Term 4 which starts mid October. For more information on treatments, courses or corporate massage, contact the N.S.W. School of Therapeutic Massage at Level 5, 303 Pitt St (at Town Hall) telephone 9283 2588, or check out the website www.schoolofmassage.com.au.

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO SAFETY & FITNESS IN FOOTBALL

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VALENTINE PARK SPORT MEDICINE CENTRE
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Glenwood NSW 2768
Ph 8824 6996, Fax 8824 6889
Contact: David Hughes or Andrew Harper.

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(Sydney Macedonia Soccer Club Inc)

BANKSTOWN CITY CUBS YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

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5.45pm for Under 14s
7.00pm for Under 17s
Wednesday
5.45 for Under11s and Under 12s
7.00pm for Under 13s
VENUE: O'Neil Park, Cooper Road,Yagoona

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Director of Coaching
GEORGE FERNANDEZ
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for soccer players playing in:

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YOUTH EAGUE & CADET LEAGUE
Under 13s & Under 14s on Tuesday nights from 9 October 2001
Under 15s & Under 17s on Thursday nights from 11 October 2001
Under 11s & Under 12s on Tuesday nights from 10 October 2001
starting times 6.30pm for all of the above grades

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SUPER LEAGUE
(Winter Competition)
Under 19s, 21s and First Grade on Saturdays from 3 October 2001
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Enquiries Mr Tom Gombrellis 0402 069 408
or Steve Economides 0419 686 569
or Chris Katarzis (1st Grade coach) 041 768 2120

THE WORLD GAME

Rangers and Celtic will not b allowed to leav Scotland: Will

THE Old Firms' hopes of a move to the English Premiership have received a blow after FIFA vowed to block the move.

Both Rangers and Celtic have indicated that they would prefer to play football south of the border.

But FIFA vice-president David Will insists both FIFA and UEFA would not permit the Glasgow clubs to play in the national league of another country, claiming the game would "fall apart" if they allowed such plans to go ahead.

He said: "The Old Firm switch would not be permitted by FIFA or UEFA.

In recent years there have been only two occasions where FIFA has given permission.

"A New Zealand club play in the Australian league and the two clubs in Liechtenstein are in the Swiss league," he said.

"There is no professional set-up in these countries.

"Football would fall apart if Austrian clubs played in Italy, Dutch clubs in the Bundesliga."

Speaking on a Grampian TV North Tonight Special, 'Life Without the Old Firm', to be broadcast on Tuesday in Britain, Will claimed the only way Rangers and Celtic would have a chance of playing in England would be to leave their bases of Ibrox and Parkhead and move south.

He added: "They would have to move lock, stock and barrel to a home in England.

"A team cannot be based in one country and play in the national league of another."

Rangers chairman David Murray insists the Ibrox club have "no option" but to leave the Scottish Premier League.

And he believes more people would be interested in watching the Old Firm in action than certain Premiership sides.

He told the Sunday Times: "Television is driving this whether we like it or not. People would rather watch the Old Firm on a night than Middlesb Southampton.

"If it doesn't happ ball as we know it have a future anyv can all see what's ing in the world in of industries and fc not immune.

"Our commerci retail activities k £15million, more t turnover of Premiership clubs, cannot squeeze a cut of the lemon.

"Our supporters ing at the mon there's no way I prices up either.

"There really is option for us but to

ST.GEORGE SOCCER ASSOCIATION In

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will be held at
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11 and 12 years - Tuesday 16th October
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235-257 MEURANTS LANE, GLENWOOD TELEPHONE 02 9629 2833 FAX 02 9629 1051
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ST GEORGE FORGING AHEAD

St. George Soccer Association has a rich culture and tradition within the game in this country, and to this day these traditions that were started nearly 80 years ago are still being forged within today's youngsters.

The association began back in 1924, and at the beginning was affiliated with the-then strong Illawarra District Association which brought in a number of strong teams.

Some of the teams that were competing in the association's first year were Rockdale, Brighton, Cronulla, Kograh and Arncliffe.

At this time in history, football wasn't one of the most played sports in this country.

Registrations purchased during 1926 were only 300.

The St. George Challenge Cup was started and open to any team playing association soccer in Sydney, but unfortunately even this was not enough to increase playing numbers.

The '30s and '40s offered little respite for the Saints as numbers began to steadily decrease and the number of teams competing in the association reaching as low as 14 at one stage.

Foundation life member Stan Moses along with Sydney Tanner, C. Peire and D.E Dollery did a fantastic job keeping the association running during the difficult periods and between them were over a hundred years of footballing experience and know-how on what it takes to make an association a success.

From the mid '50s onward the St. George Association have enjoyed success and part of that must be attributed to the above mentioned men who helped lay the foundation.

Teams were improving, clubs were getting bigger and the biggest problem it seemed was being able to adapt and cater for these fast moving developments.

To this day the St. George association is regarded as one of the most potent and productive when it comes to producing talent.

From players back in the golden era of football such as World Cup heroes Jimmy Fraser and Johnny Warren, the area has been renowned for both its skill and finesse.

Not to mention its toughness.

The Syd Tanner Cup has been running for 21 years now and is a competition consisting of Under 11s representative sides in the region.

Current club secretary Dot Buckley explains the significance of the event.

"It is named after former secretary Sydney Tanner who did a great deal for the association," she says.

"The competition to this day is as strong as it has ever been.

"We're growing all the time, and our numbers are growing all the time.

"If you look back over the last ten years we had about 300 teams and now we have 433 teams, and that's increasing each year."

One for the scrapbook: Johnny Warren, Tokyo 1971 - forever associated with football in St.George

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

FINAL: Valentine Park 21 October

Ground 1		
8.30	12s	Doonlsde Hawks v Albion Park
9.45	15s	Como West Jannali v Fairfield Pats
11.15	16s	Doonside Hawks v Unanderra
12.45	21s	Marayong v Fairfield Pats
2.45	AA	Padstow United v Pittwater RSL
Ground 2		
8.30	11s	Killarney Dist v North Side Monash
9.45	14W	Milton Ulladulla v Seaforth YC
11.15	16W	Milton Ulladulla v akehurst
12.45	18s	Eastwood St Andrews v Oak Flats
2.45	AAW	Clyde United v Seasiders
Ground 3		
8.30	10s	Menai v Marconi
9.45	13s	Killarney District v Richmond Rovers
11.15	14s	West Pennant Hills v Unanderra
12.45	17s	Auburn v Emu Plains
2.45	O35s	Gladvesille Ravens v Engadine Eagles

INTRODUCING THE SOCCER WEARHOUSE

The SOCCER WEARHOUSE, previously known as the Soccer Shop, has been operating for 10 years and is well acquainted with the needs of our game.

Every facet of the game is covered. The needs of clubs, associations, schools, players, coaches, referees and managers can be met by people who understand these needs and have the knowledge to meet your requirements.

All schools, clubs, associations and any other sporting body can order sets of strips, tracksuits, socks and other apparel by a range of suppliers, including our own brand, State Blues, and receive discounted prices on other brands such as Attack Sports, Admiral, Covo, Classic Sportswear, Lotto, Soccer Shirts International, Umbro and Uhlsport.

Likewise, the SOCCER WEARHOUSE can obtain balls from the four licensees—Lotto, Mitre, Real and Uhlsport.

Goalkeeping equipment, shinguards, referees requirements, coaching manuals, training aids, books and videos, medals, bags, caps, field marking equipment, goal nets and medical items are also available.

The SOCCER WEARHOUSE can also cater for the needs of other sports such as Touch Footy, Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League and Rugby Union.

The SOCCER WEARHOUSE is managed by Bill Cullinan. Either Bill or his assistant, Roy Ashpole, will be pleased to answer any queries. Written quotations are available on request.

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KICK OFF

Your weekly in-depth coverage of the National Soccer League

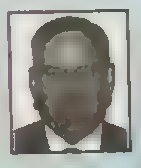
NSL Preview

Friday 12th October, North Sydney Oval 7pm
Northern Spirit Vs Newcastle United
A big crowd should be on hand to witness a game that has great promise Former Northern Spirit assistant Ian Crook will be pumped against his for side although little remains the same since he was there. Beltrame in goa for Newcastle will be looking to stop everything that comes his way after being released by Spirit last season.
Friday 12th October, Ericcson Stadium 7:30pm
Kingz F.C Vs South Melbourne
Kingz were solid against Brisbane away last week. It could well come do to a battle of tactics as Petersen tries to outwit his predecessor at South Eddie Krncevic. South do look a little light on defensively and expect to s Vlahos cause more than a little ripple against his former side. Kingz to w
Saturday 13th October, Parramatta Stadium 7:30pm
Parramatta Power Vs Wollongong Wolves
The match of the round. Power will be looking for all three points against Wolves outfit that still look a little rough around the edges. A fit Sean Ba will be needed up front for the Wolves if they want to test this experience Power defence. Both sides have plenty of creativity in the middle but this still be a gritty contest with not many goals.
Saturday 13th October, Perth Oval 7:00pm
Perth Glory Vs Marconi Marconi proved last week that they will be comp tive. Taking on the competition favourites away from home will be a true for the Stallions. Still they are young and brash and won't be taking a ba ward step. Glory have potential goal-scorers all over the park including f mer Stallions captain Brad Maloney so they will need to be on their toes whole time.
Saturday 13th October, Knights Park 7:30pm
Melbourne Knights Vs Adelaide City Force
The force will be itching to get stuck into the action after coming off the last week. The Knights though as always will be tough to beat at home the game promises to be entertaining with both sides sure to create ple opportunities. The only problem it might pose for Adelaide is having the ty up front to put away those chances.
Sunday 14th October, Edensor Park 4:00pm
Sydney United Vs Brisbane Strikers
An interesting clash, with two diverse styles going up against each othe United though will have too much class in the end in what is shaping up be a goal-fest. In front of what is sure to be a near-capacity crowd the Bravehearts will be looking to put on a show for their fans in their first h game. Branko has admitted that the side has made too many changes his liking during the off-season but no doubt he'll be hoping that those changes will soon start to pay dividends.

PICTURE: PABLO CARDOZO

WIN $150

SEND YOUR PREDICTIONS to us to arrive no later than 5pm FRIDAY 12 October and we'll give $150 to one lu reader if their selections beat our panel. To win, all six games must be listed and be better than the best tipster o panel. If not won the prize jackpots by $50 every week until won. If more than one winner then the winning entry be drawn at random from the winning pool. Forecasts are calculated on results, not scores which are included fo of fun. By Post: PO Box 98, Corrimal NSW 2518. By Fax 02 4285 7480. By email: footballweekly@hotmail.com



	Spirit Vs Newcastle	Kingz Vs South	Power Vs Wolves	Perth Vs Marconi	Adelaide Vs Knights	United Vs Brisbane
Doug Symes Wollongong director NSWSF director	Spirit 2-0	1-1	Woles 2-1	Perth 3-1	2-2 draw	United1-0
Francis Awaritefe Former Socceroo SBS commentator	Newcastle 2-1	Kingz 2-0	Power 1-0	Perth 3-0	Knights 3-0	United 2-1
Dave Mason Media Manager Northern Spirit	Spirit 2-1	Kingz 2-1	Wolves 2-0	Perth 3-0	Knights 2-0	United 3-1
Brian Brown Coach Blacktown City	Newcastle 1-0	Kingz 2-0	1-1	Perth 4-0	1-1 draw	United 2-1
Gerry Gomez Coaching director NSL great	Spirit 2-0	South 2-1	1-1	Marconi 2-1	Knights 1-0	United 2-1
Taghred Chandab Media manager Parramatta Power	Newcastle 1-0	South 2-1	Power 1-0	Perth 2-1	Knights 1-0	United 2-0
Jimmy Fraser Coaching director Former Socceroo	1-1 draw	Kingz 1-0	Wolves 2-0	Perth 2-0	Knights 2-1	United 2-1
Adam Leto Journalist Super Soccer	2-2 draw	Kingz 2-0	Power 1-0	draw 1-1	Knights 1-0	United 3-0
Bruce Campbell Editor Super Soccer	Spirit 2-0	0-0 draw	Power 1-0	Perth 2-1	Adelaide 1-0	United 2-0

Cardozo turns match for Spirit

By Andrew Aiton

BOTH teams started off brightly in this first round NSL match but Parramatta Power never recovered from the loss of David Barrett in the 38th minute to a red card for a tackle from behind correctly handed out by Referee Shield.

The Power scored the first goal in the 3rd minute from a set play.

Parramatta were awarded a free kick out on the right and Ahmad Elrich ran in, stepped over the ball and allowed Damien Brown coming from a different angle to cross the ball into Spirit's goal area where three Spirit defenders appeared to be bemused and allowed the ball to drift through to an unmarked Wayne O'Sullivan who had all the time in the world to head home a goal.

However, Spirit replied four minutes later when an accurate pass from Troy Cranney found Pablo Cardozo who turned his markers on the edge of the penalty area and hit a strong shot into the net past Les Pogliacomi.

Cardozo was settling in well and was doing a power of work all over the field but the Power was still threatening with a shot from Lubo Lapsanski going over the bar in the 25th and Johnny Buonavoglia broke through in the 28th but was foiled by keeper Lupce Acevski.

Appeals by Spirit supporters for a penalty were waived aside by the referee.

Cardozo snapped up the ball in the 33rd from a mistake by Peter Bennnet but shot over the bar.

Spirit were still unsettled with long speculative punts out of defence failing to find their men and then the sending off of Barrett changed the picture.

It was not so much the loss of Barrett that affected the game but more the improved play from an increasingly confident Spirit and they got their reward just before half time in the 44th when John Hutchinson, who was working his heart out, drove home a ball crossed from the right.

Spirit consolidated their lead in the 49th with a free kick from the right by Robbie Enes being missed by the Parramatta defence allowing Julian Watts to head the ball home.

Parramatta kept plugging away and in the 55th Buonavoglia was put in the clear by a long clearance from Keeper Pogliacomi but shot across the face of the goal.

Six minutes later Lapsanski initiated another move involving Elrich and O'Sullivan who shot past the post.

In the 72nd Steve Fitzsimmon's loping shot into goal with Acevski out of position was headed off the line by a Spirit defender.

Then Spirit lost captain Craig Foster to a second yellow card but they never looked like losing the game with the away team playing a better brand of football with strong contributions from Cardozo and Trajkovski as well as from Foster until his send off.

After the game Spirit coach Mick Hickman was well pleased with the result and said: "I think Cardozo's fast reply was the turning point."

When quizzed about the number of cards handed out to his players he replied: "Discipline is a fine line between having 'no bottle' and having a physical presence.

" I thought David Barrett's send off was touch and go as was Craig Foster's second card."

Hickman concluded that the should never have lost the goal against them but that it would take a while for the team to tighten up its performance.

Parramatta Power 1 Northern Spirit 3

Parramatta Power 1 (Wayne O'Sullivan 3m) Northern Spirit 3 (Pablo Cardozo 7m, John Hutchinson 44m, Julian Watts 49m)
Ground: Parramatta Stadium
Referee: Mark Shield
Attendance: 5,012
Parramatta Power: 1.Les Pogliacomi, 2.David Barrett, 4.Nick Orlic, 5.Alex Tobin, 7.Wayne O'Sullivan, 10.Lubo Lapsansky, 11.Damien Brown (17.Steve Fitzsimmons 65m), 19.Johnny Buonavoglia, 21.Ahmad Elrich (16.Brett Holman 84m), 26.Luke Roodenburg, 28. Peter Bennett.
Cautions: Steve Fitzsimmons 84m Send off: David Barrett 38m
Northern Spirit: 1.Lupce Acevski, 2.Julian Watts, 5.Robbie Trajkovski, 7.Andy McDermott, 11.Troy Cranney, 8.Craig Foster, 18. Robbie Enes, 12.John Hutchinson, 14.Michael Cartwright, 10 Pablo Cardozo, 9.Adrian Cervinski (Tony Perinich 85m)
Cautions: Craig Foster 9m,73m (send off), Andy McDermott 30m, Robbie Trajkovski 35m, Troy Cranney 59m, Pablo Cardozo 71

KICK OFF 2002

Big crowd watch Shark attack

by Stuart Jones

THE result every Olympic fan was looking for occurred on Saturday night with the Olympic Sharks winning 1-0 in their home Shark Park debut.

It was a match of a few controversies but overall one that Olympic deserved to take full points away from.

The game looked to have started sensationally for the side from the Shire with Jeromy Harris in on goal having rounded Brett Hughes, the United keeper, after just four minutes.

However, Michael Cunico, debuting for United, dived in at the last gasp and managed to turn it around the post.

It was a marvelous moment of the game but unfortunately the rest of the half did not really live up to the expectations created by this early chance.

The first shot on target by Sydney United came in the 19th minute from Kresimir Marusic but it went straight to the keeper.

Up to this point the match had been marred by more constant whistle blowing by the referee and one minute after Marusic's shot at the other end of the field, Mr Micallef ordered a penalty.

The ball was seemingly going out of play when Harris went down close to the vicinity of United sweeper Marcus Stergiopoulos.

One man who was not in the vicinity was the referee but he pointed to the spot anyway.

Nick Carle's penalty shot was low and easily within reach of Brett Hughes who saved well.

It was perhaps justice.

For the rest of the half United were restricted to long range efforts, most of which were off target.

Tom Pondeljak was becoming more and more dominant in midfield against his old team although his efforts were not being capitalised on by his strikers.

Five minutes from the end of the half and Troy Halpin had two shots go just over the bar when Hughes was left stranded in the United goal.

Again long-range efforts were United's response but they failed to hit the target.

0-0 at half time and things kicked up a bit after the interval.

Jade North and Jeromy Harris worked well together in one attack as did Nick Carle and Paul Kohler in a second soon afterwards but as per the rest of the game the final ball was always disappointing.

Whether that can be put down to just the sandy surface is debatable.

Finally it looked goal time for the Sharks when Lindsay Wilson put a lovely cross in for Harris to deflect what looked goalwards only for the ball to hit the base of the post.

In the 67th minute United were not so lucky.

After Ante Moric had been deemed by the referee to have handled the ball Tom Pondeljak took the free kick from 35 yards out.

The ball was struck well and Hughes could do was parry it.

Dylan McAllister was straig onto the rebound and put the b in the back of the net comfo ably.

After that United were chasi the match and it certainly open up as they threw men forwa whilst the Sharks were continu ly catching their opponents the break although they wo always be frustrated by a p final ball.

The match finished 1-0 to Sharks and there were a cou of mitigating factors as to w there were not more goals.

Firstly, the surface was p and some passes looked sand wedge shots at Sutherla Golf Course.

Secondly, the referee was c stantly pulling the game up free kicks which obviou stopped the flow of the ma and increased the frustration els of the players.

Overall United will be dis pointed not to have created m chances and Olympic will upset at not converting more the chances they did create.

Olympic are the better tean the moment but United have of improvement in them and c be discounted.

Olympic Sharks 1 Sydney United 0

Referee: Simon Micallef
Crowd: 9,612
Venue: Toyota Park
Olympic Sharks: 1 Clint Bolton (gk) 4 Paul Kohler 7 Lindsay Wilson 8 Tom Pondeljak 9 Dylan MacAllister (-91'+) 10 Troy Halpin 11 Jade North (-72') 16 Jeromy Harris 19 Nick Carle 23 Andrew Packer 24 Andrew Durante (-85')
Substitutes: 2 Sebastian Sinozic (+85') 14 Greg Owens (+72') 15 Elias Demourtzidis (+91'+) 20 John Karoubas (gk)
Scorers: D MacAllister (66)
Cautions: A Packer 14'J Harris 23'T Halpin 63'N Carle 79'
Sydney United: 1 Brett Hughes (gk) 2 Michael Santalab 5 Nahuel Arrarte 6 Michael Cunico 7 Kresimir Marusic 8 Ante Moric (-72') 10 Ante Milicic 13 Ante Deur (-72') 15 Aytec Genc (-91'+) 17 Paul Bilokapic 24 Marcus Stergiopoulos subs: 12 Brendan Santalab (+72') 16 Commins Menapi (+91'+) 25 Jon Angelucci (+72') 20 John Perosh (gk) cautions: A Moric 07'N Arrarte 25'A Milicic 56'P Bilokapic 60'J Angelucci 84'A Genc 91'+

australia's best selling football weekly
SUPER SOCCER leading the way in NSL coverage

Shot shy Wolves struggle in opener

by Stuart Jones

AFTER a belated start to the season, the match was held up 50 minutes after the Marconi bus broke down on the way to the game, Wollongong and Marconi played out a 0-0 draw at Win Stadium on Friday night.

The game was a match of few highlights with both sides starting slowly as to be expected being the first game of the season and after all the dramas before kick off with Marconi's delayed arrival.

The first 15 minutes saw a couple of long range shots from the Wolves but the likes of Alex Castro could not get them on target.

The team also disappointed in their long range passing with several going straight to Stallion defenders.

In the 16th minute it was Brendan Renaud who looked to be on target with a fierce shot deflected away by a sliding tackle from new Wolves captain George Souris.

This had come from good lead-up work by Norman Tome and John Maisano and it may be the combination of those two that gives the Stallions their best goal scoring opportunities this season.

For the next ten minutes it was Wollongong who seemed to gain the initiative with Paul Reid and Alvin Cecolli being involved more and more.

However both players were letting themselves down with poor options for the final ball.

This meant, Wollongong, despite many half chances had limited shots on goal.

In the 27th minute Cecolli put a ball across the back of his own defence and Farah tried to head the ball away from danger only for it to head towards his own goal.

Dean Anastiadis, having finally been called into play, pulled off a terrific save to avoid total Wolves embarrasement.

There were a couple of half chances before half time for either side with Brendan Renaud seeing his volley from 25 metres go wide, Paul Reid getting hassled off the ball by Dominic Longo in the Marconi goal area and Marconi's first actual shot on goal a weak effort from Maisano 37 minutes into the match.

Two minutes before the break Liam Austin seemed to be in on goal on his debut for the local boys but Angelo Costanzo came across to clean up superbly.

The first half had seen a fierce battle down the left flank between James Afkos and Alvin Cecolli but in the second half the play became much more centred in the middle of the park with Paul Reid dominating more and more although his choices sometimes let him down.

His shot on goal in the 59th minute was a beauty but the ball did not dip enough and just went over the bar.

He also set up Liam Austin ten minutes later but his strike also was off target.

Just prior to those shots Brendan Renaud had set up a half chance for Norman Tome and it was Renaud who would do all the running in the last half hour of the match.

He was not only setting up the attacks but with 14 minutes to play he saved Marconi by clearing a goal mouth scramble.

Again Paul Reid hit back playing second half substitute Naum Sekulovski down the left and his cross was met with a backwards bicycle kcik from Stuart Young although it was off target as well.

With three minutes remaining it was Marconi's turn to try and snatch a game they would have been awarded just on points had it been a prize fight.

A Renaud free kick from the left was headed down by Tome only to hit the base of the post whilst the follow-up was deflected wide.

Then in injury time Royce Brownlie had a header in the area that should have been put in the back of the net although the play was nullified with a free kick being awarded for Brownlie climbing over the Wolves defenders.

Overall the match was marred a bit by the over use of the whistle with constant free kicks for seemingly innocuous challenges.

The Wolves were also disappointed to have had all three of their penalty claims denied in a match when so many fouls were pulled up.

When the advantage was played by the referee it worked well and perhaps a bit more use of this would have livened the match up a lot more.

It is clear Wollongong have some issues to fix up this season.

Alex Castro and Paul Reid did not fire well in midfield together, whilst Reid's workload is going to have to increase.

The backs were solid and things look good in that department with Robbie Stanton still to be added to that mix.

Wolves fans must avoid the temptation to compare Matt Horsley and Buddy Farah, Horsley was a great player but he is gone now and Farah is a different style of player who will always give 100% as well.

Perhaps Darren McDonald's inclusion in midfield will help but it is up front that the Wolves s month and they need to f who will convert the harc Young does.

For Marconi the backs with Longo, Renaud, C Beauchamp playing very

The midfield worked v there is still some improv ed.

After a good pre-s Gullesarian was a bit dis this match but his time s he looks to have the skil

However Marconi can ever and need to find power to work off the like and Tome, and a bit of not go astray either.

Not a classic match Marconi should be ple come away with havi point.

Wollongong will be dis to have started more they did not lose and always the defining mar team.

Masi gives Newcastle a flying home start

NEWCASTLE has kicked off the 2001-02 NSL season in style with a 1-0 win over the Melbourne Knights at Marathon Stadium.

The match, which attracted more than 10,000 fans, was delayed by over 30 minutes after Knights' coach Andrew Marth was stranded on the F3 freeway.

An accident near the Hawkesbury Bridge had blocked the northbound lanes of the highway.

"I was delighted to get away with a win," Newcastle coach Ian Crook said after scoring a victory in his first match in charge.

"I thought it was a real tough game out there tonight but it was the boys who went out there who deserve all the accolades.

"But this afternoon I must admit I drove my wife and children mad, I was rather nervous."

Fijian striker Esala Masi neatly headed home a Joel Griffiths cross in the 51st minute to give the home side the win.

The match provided almost everything - including a melee in the 47th minute after United's Robbie Middleby collided with Knights keeper Martin John inside the area.

It was entertaining soccer for most of the match but a possible season-ending injury to Newcastle striker Daniel McBreen took the gloss off Newcastle's celebrations.

McBreen was replaced in the 36th minute after falling awkwardly and twisting his knee.

Marth refused to blame the delay for his loss, preferring to give credit to opposition.

"I think we were in the bus for over three hours," Marth said. "Realistically that doesn't mean too much, we had ample time to get ready with almost 45 minutes allocated to us by match officials.

"Full credit to Newcastle, they didn't let us play and when we did start to play some real good soccer, it was too late.

"Newcastle have bought well in the off-season and look a good side."

United had several good chances in the first half with Travis Dodd shooting from outside the area but skewed off his boot.

Griffiths got in behind the defenders and his shot went across goal for McBreen to head towards goal but John threw out an arm to deflect the ball around the post.

Dodd scraped the woodwork with a great left foot shot several minutes later after a piercing run from halfway.

The Knights also had their chances when Joseph Tricarico went one-on-one with United keeper Daniel Beltrame but pushed the ball wide of an open goal.

KICK OFF 2002

Wollongong Wolves 0 Marconi Stallions

Referee: Con Diomis
Crowd: 5,237
Venue: WIN Stadium
Wollongong Wolves: 1 Dean Anastasiadis (gk) 2 George Souris 3 A
Ceccoli 5 David Cervinski 6 Alex Castro (-46') 7 Paul Reid 10 Stuar
Liam Austin (-74') 14 Buddy Farah (-88') 15 David Huxley 17 Ben B
Substitutes: 8 Max Nicholson (+74') 9 Zeljko Babic (+88') 11 Naum
(+46') 20 Grant Barlow (gk)
Marconi Stallions: 1 Michael Turnbull (gk) 2 Michael Beauchamp 4
Costanzo 5 Dominic Longo 6 Christian Care 7 Brendan Renaud 9 I
Gulessarian (-70') 10 John Maisano (-76') 11 Norman Tome (-88') 1
Webb 17 James Afkos
Substitutes: 8 Grant Last (+88') 15 Royce Brownlie (+70') 18 Saso
(+76') 30 Bob Catlin (gk)
Cautions: N Tome 30'J Afkos 88'

Newcastle United 1 Melbourne Knights (

Referee: Matthew Breeze
Crowd: 10,050
Venue: Marathon Stadium
Scorers Esala Masi (51)
Newcastle United: 1 Daniel Beltrame (gk) 3 Andrew Roberts 4 Chr
Matthew Bingley 7 Travis Dodd 8 Mark Wilson 9 Joel Griffiths 10 D
McBreen (-37') 12 Scott Baillie 13 Milan Blagojevic 22 Robbie Mid
Substitutes: 11 Peter Tsekenis 14 Anthony Surjan 17 Esala Masi (-
Bradley Swancott (gk)
Cautions: R Middleby 48'T Dodd 87'Melbourne Knights: 1 Martin J
Rodrigo Vargas 4 Sasa Ognenovski 5 Steve Horvat 7 Daniel Vasile
Porter 10 Antonio Da Costa 13 Ivan Jolic 17 Daniel Rocco (-75') 1
Vargas 23 Joe Tricarico (-62')
Substitutes: 12 Boris Ovcin (+62') 14 Daniel Piorkowski 21 Zolton
30 Darren McGrath (gk)
Cautions: I Jolic 67'

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SUPER SOCCER leading the way in NSL covera

Strikers shrug off under-dogs tag

BRISBANE has shrugged off its tag as a potential wooden spooner to start the 2001-02 NSL season with an upset 2-1 win over the Football Kingz at Ballymore.

In front of an NSL record Ballymore crowd of 3,516, the Kingz, who were the league's big spenders in the off-season, were outplayed for most of the match by a spirited Strikers' combination.

Brisbane's Brazilian import Fernando Rech broke the deadlock midway through the opening half with a clever goal with his back facing the Kingz defence.

Rech shrugged off a lethargic tackle from midfielder Gerard Davis before turning to poke a shot past rookie goalkeeper Michael Theoklitos.

Theoklitos, playing in his first NSL match, was kept busy throughout the game as the Strikers exerted relentless pressure on the youngster.

Fernando, who starred in his first season for the Strikers last year, earlier showed his intentions by shrugging off a tackle from Kingz skipper Sean Douglas before rifling a shot over the cross bar.

The visitors hit back just 10 minutes after the break when striker Paul Urlovic latched onto a long ball, which caught goalkeeper Jason Kearton well off his line, before slotting home.

With the game delicately poised, either side looked capable of grabbing the winner which eventually fell to the home side in the 83rd minute.

Former Socceroo Kris Trajanovski showed his class by laying off perfectly for fellow frontman Paul Foster to drill home the winner.

The Strikers were cut from the NSL competition in the off-season but were later readmitted after gaining a league licence in their own right.

The club, which last week secured world giants Parmalat as its major sponsor, invoked a catchcry to "repay the faith" after its supporters stuck with it following its expulsion from the competition.

Brisbane Strikers 2 Kingz FC 1

Referee: Craig Zetter
Crowd: 3,516
Venue: Ballymore
Brisbane Strikers: 1 Jason Kearton (gk) 2 Richie Alagich 3 Shane Stefanutto 4 Jon McKain (-81') 5 Stuart McLaren 6 Peter Grierson 7 Fernando Rech 9 Paul Foster 10 Kris Trajanovski 11 John Carbone (-66') 14 Daniel Dreger
Substitutes: 8 Adam Webber (+81') 12 David Pilic 18 Lawrence Drake (+66') 20 Corey Baldock (gk)
Scorers: F Rech (22)P Foster (82)
Cautions: J Carbone 63'F Rech 75'
Kingz FC: 1 Michael Theoklitos (gk) 2 Jonathon Perry (-85') 3 Mark Atkinson 5 Vinko Buljubasic (-85') 6 George Goutzioulis 7 Wynton Rufer (-46') 8 Gerard Davis 9 Paul Urlovic 11 Andrew Vlahos 15 Mark Burton 25 Sean Douglas
Substitutes: 4 Levent Osman (+85') 12 Heremaia Ngata (+85') 14 John Markovski (+46')
Scorers: P Urlovic (56)
Cautions: V Buljubasic 71'M Theoklitos 75'P Urlovic 93'

Moments of madness give Glory a Melbourne gift at Bob Jane

THE deadliest strike force in Australia has fired Perth Glory to a comfortable 3-1 victory over South Melbourne in their opening NSL match at Bob Jane Stadium.

Bobby Despotovski scored twice, and created another for striking partner Damien Mori as the Glory set their stall out early in their bid for a first NSL championship.

Despotovski was the beneficiary of what South coach Eddie Krncevic called "two moments of madness" for his two goals.

After the otherwise outstanding Patrick Kisnorbo brought down Perth's Edgar Junior in the box in the 21st minute, Despotovski expertly slotted away the resulting penalty.

Then South goalkeeper Chris Jones' woeful attempted clearance two minutes before halftime ricocheted off Despotovski's boot.

It fell kindly for Despotovski and he banged it into an empty net - gleefully accepting which what will probably prove his easiest chance all season.

Despotovski then created Perth's third goal, robbing Socceroo defender Fausto De Amicis in the 71st minute and sliding the ball into Mori's path.

Both players looked sharp and could have had several more goals, with Mori twice wasteful late in the game.

It was a far happier outing for Despotovski and the Glory than their last visit to Melbourne in May.

That resulted in the striker being fined for a three-fingered salute and he and his team-mates getting a beating from Melbourne Knights fans during a playoff match at Somers Street.

South, which had been the better side in the opening 45 minutes despite being two goals down, grabbed a consolation goal in injury time through teenage substitute Steve Manceski.

Perth coach Mich D'Avray admitted South - particularly hard-working skipper Paul Trimboli - had caused his side problems.

"I'm obviously happy with the result, but not happy with the way we played," D'Avray said.

"The players had their heads down after the match. We know we can play a lot better than that."

By contrast, beaten coach Krncevic was happy with his side's effort and saw no need to panic with the result.

"Today there were a lot of positives," he said.

South Melbourne 1 Perth Glory 3

Scorers: SMEL S Manceski 93'+ PRTH B Despotovski 21'pen/44' D Mori 76
Referee: Perry Mur Crowd: 7,632 Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
South Melbourne: 20 Chris Jones (gk) 2 Steve Iosifidis (-73') 3 Fausto De Amicis 4 Mehmet Durakovic 7 Steve Panopoulos 8 Vaughan Coveny 9 Paul Trimboli 10 Peter Buljan 11 Joe Bacak (-83') 18 Clayton Bell 19 Patrick Kisnorbo Substitutes: 12 Radomir Sekulovski (+73') 15 Nick Tolios 17 Steve Manceski (+83') 23 Eugen Galekovic (gk). Cautions: J Bacak 26'
Perth Glory: 1 Jason Petkovic (gk) 2 Matthew Horsley 5 Craig Deans 7 Scott Miller 8 Brad Maloney 10 Bobby Despotovski (-90') 14 Dion Valle (-83') 15 Edgar Aldrighi Junior 16 Damian Mori 17 Gary Faria (-89') 18 Shane Pryce Substitutes: 9 Alistair Edwards (+89') 11 Michael Garcia (+83') 25 Todd Hamwell (+90') 20 Tony Franken (gk)
Cautions: D Valle 45'

NSL DIGEST

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 (F Rech 22', P Foster 82')
KINGZ FC 1 (P Urlovic 56')
Cautions: J Carbone (BS) 63', V Buljubasic (K) 71', F Rech (BS) 75', M Theoklitos (K) 75', P Urlovic (K) 93'
Venue: Ballymore
Referee: Craig Zetter
Crowd 01/02: 3,516 Crowd 00/01: 2,665
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1 (E Masi 51')
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Cautions: R Middleby (NU) 48', I Jolic (MK) 67', T Dodd (87') Venue: Marathon Stadium
Referee: Matthew Breeze
Crowd 01/02: 10,053 Crowd 00/01: 6,875
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0
MARCONI STALLIONS 0
Cautions: N Tome (MS) 30', P Afkos (MS) 88'
Venue: WIN Stadium Referee: Con Dionis
Crowd 01/02: 5,237 Crowd 00/01: 5,575
OLYMPIC SHARKS 1 (D McAllister 66')
SYDNEY UNITED 0
Cautions: A Moric (SU) 7', A Packer (SO) 14', J Harris (SO) 23', N Arrarte (SU) 25', A Milicic (SU) 56', P Bilokapic (SU) 60', T Halpin (SO) 63', N Carle (SO) 79', J Angelucci (SU) 84', A Genc (SU) 91'
Venue: Toyota Park Referee: Simon Micallef
Crowd 01/02: 9,612 Crowd 00/01: 4,462
PARRAMATTA POWER 1 (N Orlic 4')
NORTHERN SPIRIT 3 (P Cardozo 8', J Hutchinson 44', J Watts 49')
Cautions: A McDermott (NS) 31', R Trajkovski (NS) 36', T Cranney (NS) 61', P Cardozo (NS) 72', S Fitzsimmons (PP) 84'
Red Cards: D Barrett (PP) 40', C Foster (NS) 75'
Venue: Parramatta Stadium Referee: Mark Shield
Crowd 01/02: 5,012 Crowd 00/01: 8,176
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (S Manceski 93')
PERTH GLORY 3 (B Despotovski 21' pen 44', D Mori 76')
Cautions: J Bacak (SM) 26', D Valle (PG) 45', E Aldrighi (PG) 51' Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Referee: Perry Mur
Crowd 01/02: 7,632 Crowd 00/01: 12,917
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE - BYE

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Fergie must be given the Scotland job: Craig Brown

FORMER Scotland coach Craig Brown insists that the Scottish Football Association's first choice for a replacement must be Sir Alex Ferguson.

Ferguson has embarked on his final season in charge at Manchester United.

He is widely regarded to be one of the most successful managers in the world and has already had a taste of being in charge of the Scotland national team, when he took over for 10 games following the sudden death of Jock Stein.

Now Brown - who quit as manager at the weekend night following Scotland's failure to qualify for the World Cup finals - insists Ferguson must be given first refusal for the job.

Brown said: "It would be impertinent of me to say who I think it should be but, if I'm asked I'll give my opinion.

"I know all the coaches and I don't know if the executive committee will ask me but I'm still there as director of football development and I suppose they will.

"Obviously everyone in Scotland would think it would be nice if Sir Alex would just come

up and take the job.

"Everyone has respect throughout the world for him. I don't know if that would be possible, but I think when we've got a Scotsman who is the best in the world, he's worth a try.

"I think if the SFA are wise I'm sure they will give him a call anyway and give him at least first refusal.

"But it would be marvellous if Alex thought 'okay, it's a winding-down time, it's not day-to-day involvement.'

"He's been there, he was 10 games as Scotland manager on a temporary basis, and he knows the hassle but it would be fantastic for Scotland."

Brown claims that, looking back on his eight years in charge of the national team, the only thing he would change is the outcome of Scotland's game against Belgium at Hampden Park.

The Scots, who had been winning 2-0, dropped two points when Belgium fired home an injury-time equaliser and it was that goal which ultimately cost Brown's side qualification for Japan and Korea.

He told Sky Sports: "I honestly don't think I would change anything - I've had wonderful assistant coaches, Alex Miller and Archie Knox.

"The backroom staff's support has been superb and the fans have been magnificent.

"So there is hardly anything I would change, except the last 10 minutes of the Belgium game."

But he has warned his successor that there may not be easy times ahead and that selecting top players to play for Scotland will be difficult while the Old Firm continue to invest in foreign imports.

He added: "The national youth teams and the Under 21 team are not bad at all but unfortunately there isn't an opportunity because of the signing policy of the top two clubs in Scotland.

"Martin O'Neill hasn't been here long enough to establish a youth policy of his own and Dick Advocaat has got one or two boys eventually coming t

"But when I saw the C game last week, betwee and Rangers, I think the only three eligible Scots

"Until the top teams ar Scottish boys in, I don't t national team is going to

SFA chief executive Taylor has confirmed tha candidates will be consid the manager's job vacat

England have enjoyed success since the Swed Goran Eriksson su Kevin Keegan and the under pressure from sor ters to follow suit.

But there exists anothe ful lobby within the Scotti that insists the nation boss must always be a S

Taylor said: "We have mind on that. There w number of factors that w tually be considered in job specification or perso fication.

"Nationality may be those but it would be whole number of factors be considered."

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC

Super Cadets/Youth League Trials

(Under 11s and Under 12s) (Under 13s to Under 17s)

FOR SEASON 2002

DATES:

Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October 2001

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TIME:

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ENQUIRIES:

Laki Konistis (Club Administrator)

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Sunday 21 October, 28 October, 4 November 5.00-6.30p
Trials held at Golden Jubilee Oval, End Westbrook Ave, Wahroonga
Competing in Junior League (Sunday)

Under 13s & Under 15s
Monday 15 October, 22 October, 29 October 6.45-8.30pm
Under 14s & Under 17s
Tuesday 16 October, 23 October, 30 October 6.45-8.30pm
Trials held at Foxglove Oval, Foxglove Rd, Mt Colah
Competing in Super Youth League (Saturday)

Girls Under 14s & Under 16s
Wednesday 17 October, 24 October, 31 October 6.45-8.30pm
Trials held at Foxglove Oval, Foxglove Rd, Mt Colah
Competing in Girls Youth League (Friday/Sunday)

Under 18 & Seniors
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China qualify for first ever World Cup finals

CHINA are on their way to the World Cup for the first time after beating Oman.

Bora Milutinovic's team squeezed out a 1-0 victory to guarantee themselves top-spot in Group B with two rounds of matches still to play.

Yu Genwei grabbed a 37th-minute winner to take the country with a population of 1.275 billion into the World Cup hosted by Korea and Japan.

They will be joined there by the United States, who qualified for their fourth successive World Cup finals with a 2-1 victory over Jamaica.

Qualification was assured after Trinidad & Tobago, previously without a win, beat Hondurus 1-0 away while Mexico drew 0-0 with table-topping Costa Rica.

The top three sides from the final CONCACAF group all qualify for the finals and with Mexico and Hondurus meeting next month, the US joined the Costa Ricans in booking their passage to the Far East.

In Sunday's other main game, Sweden maintained their Group Four unbeaten record with a 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan in Stockholm.

The Scandinavians were already assured of a spot in next summer's finals, but they cemented their place at the top of the group with a comfortable victory over the bottom side.

Southampton midfielder Anders Svensson broke the deadlock in the 52nd before Celtic striker Henrik Larsson scored from the spot nine minutes later.

Ajax forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic sealed Sweden's eighth win in 10 group games in the 69th minute.

On Saturday, Giovanni Trapattoni's Italy reached the finals thanks to Alessandro del Piero.

The Juventus striker, whose return to top form has coincided with the qualifying campaign, struck just before half-time in Parma to give the Italians a 1-0 win against Hungary in Group Eight.

They, Russia and Denmark all secured their places in next summer's tournament, to be hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Del Piero's winning strike illuminated an otherwise dull game with Italy's performance perfunctory at best.

In first-half stoppage-time, he stepped up to curl in a 20-yard free-kick after being fouled by Laszlo Bodnar.

The Italians, who lost to France in the Euro 2000 final, believe they will be strong contenders at the World Cup.

Captain Paolo Maldini, who will quit international football after next summer, said: "The squad we have now is very strong. Players have matured and others have grown older so there is a good mix."

Francesco Totti added: "We had lots of chances during the match and even though I missed a few I kept thinking positively and thankfully Alessandro Del Piero did the job."

Romania could mathematically have passed the Italians, but they realistically needed to win and hope Italy lost.

As it was, only a late Gheorghe Popescu leveller spared their blushes in a 1-1 home draw against Georgia.

Russia thrashed Switzerland 4-0 with Vladimir Beschastnykh notching a first-half hat-trick, one penalty and two headers, and Egor Titov curling in a late free-kick.

Slovenia, who beat the Faroe Islands 3-0, could have climbed top had Russia lost.

The Czech Republic thrashed Bulgaria 6-0, with Tomas Rosicky and Pavel Nedved both bagging two goals, but that was not enough to take them to the top of Group Three.

That honour and automatic qualification went to Denmark, who were also 6-0 winners against Iceland in Copenhagen with Everton's Thomas Gravesen and Ebbe Sand each scoring twice.

Holders France, plus Poland, Sweden and Spain were already assured of their places.

Eight of the nine play-off spots have also been confirmed.

The Ukraine will face Germany in a two-legged play-off next month while Belgium play the Czechs and Romania face Slovenia.

Turkey will play either Austria or Israel, who play next month, while the Republic of Ireland face an as-yet-undecided Asian qualifier.

USA CELEBRATE THEIR WORLD CUP WIN

It was a sombre affair in Arnhem, as Holland won 4-0 against Andorra.

They became the biggest European casualty last month when their defeat by Ireland and Portugal's subsequent win over Andorra then confirmed their exit.

Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy scored twice for them, but they - along with the likes of Norway and Yugoslavia - will be missing next May.

Norway won for just the second time in Group Five, with John Carew netting twice for them in a 4-1 win in Armenia.

In Moldova, Turkey made light work of their hosts with a 3-0 victory at the Republican Stadium.

The result was never really doubt in front of 7,000 spectato from the eighth minute whe Emre Asik fired in the opener.

But the Turks were forced wait until the 79th minute secure the points thanks to Nih Kanveci, with Ilhan Mansiz chi ping in with the third with seve minutes left.

It meant little, with Swede already crowned Group Four wi ners and Turkey looking ahead a play-off clash with Austria Israel when they finally play the deciding match which was pos poned for security reasons.

Uruguay in fifth spot

Edilson and Rivaldo have scored for Brazil in a 2-0 victory over Chile to increase their chances of automatic qualification for next year's World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

Edilson found the net in the 52nd minute and Rivaldo hit the second 11 minutes later to keep the Brazilians in fourth place in the CONMEBOL qualifying table with two matches to go.

Uruguay, level on points with Brazil before this round of games, could only draw 1-1 with Colombia leaving Brazil now two points clear.

Four teams qualify automatically for the finals with the fifth-placed side facing Oceania winners Australia in a two-leg playoff for a further World Cup place.

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SCOREBOARD

INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CUP

UEFA
Group 1
October 6
Yugoslavia 6 - Slavisa Jokanovic 19, Predrag Mijatovic 58 , Mateja Kezman 61, 72, Savo Milosevic 63, 68
Luxembourg 2 - Peterson 37 , Cristophe 52 Halftime: 1 - 1

Russia 4 - Vladimir Beschastnykh 14 pen, 20, 38, Yegor Titov 83
Switzerland 0
Halftime; 3 - 0 Slovenia 3 - Nastja Ceh 13, 31, Tiganj 82 Faroe Islandes 0Halftime: 2 - 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Russia	10	7	2	1	18	5	23
2. Slovenia	10	5	5	0	17	9	20
3. Yugoslavia	10	5	4	1	22	8	19
4. Switzerland	10	4	2	4	18	12	14
5. Faroe Islands	10	2	1	7	6	23	7
6. Luxembourg	10	0	0	10	4	28	

Russia qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Slovenia will play with Group 8 runners-up Romania in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 2.
October 6
Ireland 4 - Ian Harte 3, Niall Quinn 11 , David Connolly 63 , Roy Keane 68
Cyprus 0
Halftime: 2 - 0

Netherlands 4 - Van Hooijdonk 4 pen, Clarence Seedorf 46 , Van Nistelrooy 54, 90
Andorra 0
Half time: 1 - 0

Portugal 5 - Joao Pinto 30 , Nuno Gomes 53, 66, Pauleta 61 , Luis Figo 84
Estonia 0
Halftime: 1 - 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Portugal	10	7	3	0	33	7	24
2. Rep. Ireland	10	7	3	0	23	5	24
3. Netherlands	10	6	2	2	30	9	20
4. Estonia	10	2	2	6	10	26	8
5. Cyprus	10	2	2	6	13	31	8
6. Andorra	10	0	0	10	5	36	0

Portugal qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Rep. Ireland will play with Asian runners-up winner in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 3.
October 6
Denmark 6 - Dennis Rommedahl 12, Ebbe Sand 15, 66, Thomas Gravesen 29, 35, Jan Michaelsen 89
Iceland 0
Halftime: 4-0

Malta 0
Northern Ireland 1 - David Healy 57 pen
Halftime: 0-0

Czech Republic 6 - Vratislav Lokvenc 5, 67, Pavel Nedved 16, 76, Milan Baros 28, Tomas Rosicky 70
Bulgaria 0
Halftime: 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Denmark	10	6	4	0	22	6	22
2. Czech Rep	10	6	2	2	20	8	20
3. Bulgaria	10	5	2	3	14	15	17
4. Iceland	10	4	1	5	14	20	13
5. N. Ireland	10	3	2	5	11	12	11
6. Malta	10	0	1	9	4	24	1

Denmark qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Czech Rep will play with Group 6 runners-up Belgium in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 4.
October 6
Moldova 0
Turkey 3- Asik Emre 5, Kahveci Nihat 75, Manciz Ilhan 83
Halftime: 0 - 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sweden	9	7	2	0	17	3	23
2. Turkey	10	6	3	1	18	8	21
3. Slovakia	9	4	2	3	11	9	14
4. Macedonia	9	1	4	4	11	13	7
5. Moldova	10	1	3	6	6	20	6
6. Azerbaijan	9	1	2	6	4	14	

5Sweden qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Turkey will play with Group 7 runners-up Austria or Israel in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 5.
October 6
Armenia 1 - Hayk Hakopyan 73
Norway 4 - Bard Borgersen 50, 82, John Carew 72, 90
Halftime: 0 - 0

Poland 1 - Emmanuel Olisadebe 40
Ukraine 1 - Andrey Shevchenko 81
Halftime: 1 - 0

Wales 1 - John Hartson 47
Belarus 0Halftime: 0 - 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Poland	10	6	3	1	21	11	21
2. Ukraine	10	4	5	1	13	8	17
3. Belarus	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
4. Norway	10	2	4	4	12	14	10
5. Wales	10	1	6	3	10	12	9
6. Armenia	10	0	5	5	7	19	

5Poland qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Ukraine will play with Group 9 runners-up Germany in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 6.
October 6
Croatia 0 - Alan Boksic 75
Belgium 0
Halftime: 0 - 0

Scotland - Dougie Freedman 43, David Weir 53
Latvia - Andrej Rubins 21
Halftime: 1 - 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Croatia	8	5	3	0	15	2	18
2. Belgium	8	5	2	1	25	6	17
3. Scotland	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
4. Latvia	8	1	1	6	5	16	4
5. San Marino	8	0	1	7	3	30	1

Croatia qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Belgium will play with Group 3 runners-up Czech Rep in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 8.
October 6
Italy 1 - Alessandro Del Piero 45
Hungary 0
Halftime: 1 - 0

Romania 1 - Gheorghe Popescu 88
Georgia 1 Aleksandr Iasvili 54
Halftime: 0 - 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Italy	8	6	2	0	16	3	20
2. Romania	8	5	1	2	10	7	16
3. Georgia	8	3	1	4	12	12	10
4. Hungary	8	2	2	4	14	13	8
5. Lithuania	8	0	2	6	3	20	2

Italy qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Romania will play with Group 1 runners-up Slovenia in play-offs.

UEFA
Group 9.
October 6
England 2 - Teddy Sheringham 68 , David Beckham 90
Greece 2 - Angelos Charisteas 37, Demis Nikolaidis 70
Halftime: 0 - 1

Germany 0
Finland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. England	8	5	2	1	16	6	17
2. Germany	8	5	2	1	14	10	17
3. Finland	8	3	3	2	12	7	12
4. Greece	8	2	1	5	7	17	7
5. Albania	8	1	0	7	5	14	3

England qualified for World Cup 2002. Runners-up Germany will play with Group 5 runners-up Ukraine in play-offs.

ASIA Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	7	4	2	1	13	7	14
Iran	6	3	3	0	7	3	12
Iraq	7	2	1	4	8	8	7
Bahrain	6	1	3	2	4	7	6

SUPER SOCCER
HAS IMMEDIATE VACANCIES
IN THE FOLLOWING JOURNALIST POSITIONS

FULL TIME REPORTER
Office based: Wollongong
Duties include download of IT material, assistance in production
Instruction in Quark Express and Photoshop will be given.

REPORTER (Part Time)
Beat: select State League & NSL clubs
'Colour' and news stories on a regular weekly basis
A vacancy exists in Melbourne.

FEATURES REPORTER (Part Time)
Beat: NSL

Interested applicants should forward details of experience, knowledge and ability.
Note, a sound knowledge of Australian football is essential, as is excellence in grammar and computer experience.
An immediate start is offered for the right person and remuneration in all positions is negotiable dependent on ability, qualification and experience.

PLEASE PHONE OR EMAIL THE EDITOR
WITH YOUR INTEREST
TEL: 4285 7480 or 0415 647 423
EMAIL: footballweekly@hotmail.com

FAIRFIELD BULLS
NSW SUPER CADET
& SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE
TRIALS

AGE UNDER 11, 12, 13
Tuesday 9 October, Thursday 11 October, Saturday 13 October
UNDER 11, 12:
5-6.30pm Tuesday, Thursday, 9am-10.30am Saturday
UNDER 13:
6.30-8pm Tuesday, Thursday, 10.30am-noon Saturday

AGE UNDER 14, 15, 17
Monday 8 October, Wednesday 10 October, Saturday 13 October
UNDER 14, 15:
5-6.30pm Monday, Wednesday, 12-1.30pm Saturday
UNDER 17:
6.30-8pm Monday, Wednesday, 1.30-3pm

TRIALS will be conducted at KNIGHT PARK (entrance on Donald Street, Yennora).
TRIALISTS are asked to be there 30 minutes prior to start and asked to bring water bottles and shin pads.
CONTACT: Rita Rogers 0419 284 502
YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

NEPEAN DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE TRIALS 2002 SEASON

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
(1st Grade & Under 21s)
Tuesday & Thursday nights
Commencing October 16th from 7pm

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE
13th, 20th, 27th October & 3rd November
Under 13: 6pm Under 14: 4pm
Under 15: 2pm Under 17: 12 noon

JUNIOR LEAGUE
17th, 24th & 31st October
Under 12 6pm

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE
October 28th: Cook Park
November 4th: Summerhayes Park, Winmalee
November 11th: Cook Park
Under 12s: 12.30pm Under 14s: 2pm Under 16s: 2pm

MEN'S FEDERATION STATE LEAGUE
(1st Grade, Under 21s, Under 19s)
Trials commence Sunday 4th November at 9.00am

ENQUIRIES
Youth & men: John Todd 0418 969 540
Women & Girls: Jim Bradley 0417 272 370

All trials held at Cook Park, Wilson Street, St Marys

SCOREBOARD

Thailand	6	0	3	3	3	10	3

Played17/08/01:
Iraq 4 Thailand 0
Saudi Arabia 1 Bahrain 1
23/08/01:
Bahrain 2 Iraq 0
24/08/01:
Iran 2 Saudi Arabia 0
31/08/01:
Saudi Arabia 1 Iraq 0
0
1/09/01:
Thailand 0 Iran 0
06/09/01:
Bahrain 1 Thailand 1
07/09/01:
Iraq 1 Iran 2
14/09/01:
Iran 0 Bahrain 0
15/09/01:
Thailand 1 Saudi Arabia 3
21/09/01:
Bahrain 0 Saudi Arabia 4
22/09/01:
Thailand 1 Iraq 1
28/09/01:
Iraq 1 Bahrain 0
Arabia 2 Iran 2
05/10/01:
Iran 1 Thailand 0
Iraq 1 Saudi Arabia 2
To play
12/10/01:
Iran v Iraq
13/10/01:
Thailand v Bahrain
19/10/01:
Bahrain v Iran
Saudi Arabia v Thailand

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
UAE	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Qatar	7	2	3	2	10	7	9
Uzbekistan	6	2	1	3	10	10	7
Oman	5	0	2	3	1	11	2

Played
16/08/01:
Qatar 0 Oman 0
17/08/01:
United Arab Emirates 4 Uzbekistan 1
25/08/01:
China 3 UAE 0
26/08/01:
Uzbekistan 2 Qatar 1
31/08/01:
Oman 0 China 2
UAE 0 Qatar 2
07/09/01:
Qatar 1 China 1
08/09/01:
Uzbekistan 5 Oman 0
14/09/01:
Oman 1 UAE 1
15/09/01:
China 2 Uzbekistan 0
21/09/01:
Oman 0 Qatar 3
22/09/01:
Uzbekistan 0 UAE 1
27/09/01:
UAE 0 China 1
28/09/01:
Qatar 2 Uzbekistan 2
04/10/01:
Qatar 1 UAE 2
To play
07/10/01:
China v Oman
13/10/01:
Oman v Uzbekistan
China v Qatar
19/10/01:
UAE v Oman
19/10/01:
Uzbekistan v China

NORTH AMERICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	9	6	2	1	16	7	20
United States	9	5	1	3	11	8	16
Mexico	9	4	2	3	13	9	14
Honduras	9	4	2	3	17	14	14
Jamaica	9	2	2	5	7	13	8
Trinidad	9	1	1	7	5	18	4

FixturesPlayed:
28-02-01 at Kingston: Jamaica 1 Trinidad and Tobago 0 at Columbus: USA 2 Mexico 0 at San Jose: Costa Rica 2 Honduras 2 25-03-01 at Mexico City: Mexico 4 Jamaica 028-03-01 at San Pedro Sula: Honduras 1 USA 2at San Jose: Costa Rica 3 Trinidad and Tobago 025-05-01 at Port-of-Spain: Trinidad and Tobago 1 Mexico 1at Kansas City: USA 1 Costa Rica 0at Kingston: Jamaica 1 Honduras 116-06-01 at Mexico City: Mexico 1 Costa Rica 2at Kingston: Jamaica 0 USA 0at Port-of-Spain: Trinidada and Tobago 2 Honduras 420-06-01 at San Pedro Sula: Honduras 3 Mexico 1at Boston: USA 2 Trinidad and Tobago 0at San Jose: Costa Rica 2 Jamaica 130-06-01 at Port-of-Spain: Trinidad and Tobago 1 Jamaica 201-07-0 at Mexico City: Mexico 1 USA 0at Tegucigalpa: Honduras 2 Costa Rica 301-09-01 at Washington USA 2 Honduras 3at Port-of-Spain: Trinidad and Tobago 0 Costa Rica 202-09-01 at Kingston Jamaica 1 Mexico 205-09-01 at Mexico City: Mexico 3 Trinidad and Tobago 0at Tegucigalpa: Honduras 1 Jamaica 0at San Jose: Costa Rica 2 USA 007-10-01 at Tegucigalpa: Honduras 0 Trinidad and Tobago 1at San Jose: Costa Rica 0 Mexico 0at Foxboro: United States 2 Jamaica 1To play:11-11-01 Mexico v Honduras, Jamaica v Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago v USA

NATIONAL

ENGLAND

October 6
Second Division
Notts County 0 Wycombe 1
Third DivisionCarlisle 1 Bristol Rovers 0Oxford 1 Plymouth 1York 2 Exeter 3

Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham	12	6	4	2	29	17	22
Brentford	11	6	4	1	20	10	22
Brighton	12	6	4	2	16	10	22
Bristol City	11	6	3	2	20	11	21
Huddersfield	11	6	2	3	13	10	20
Stoke	10	6	1	3	14	5	19
Wycombe	12	5	4	3	16	12	19
Colchester	12	6	1	5	20	19	19
Tranmere	12	5	3	4	23	17	18
QPR	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Peterborough	11	5	2	4	17	12	17
Reading	11	5	2	4	10	8	17
Swindon	11	4	4	3	12	12	16
Notts County	11	4	3	4	14	17	15
Blackpool	11	4	3	4	17	21	15
Port Vale	12	4	1	7	19	21	13
Chesterfield	12	3	4	5	14	17	13
Cardiff	9	3	3	3	12	11	12
Bournemouth	11	3	3	5	12	20	12
Cambridge Utd	12	2	4	6	11	20	10
Wigan	9	2	2	5	10	13	8
Northampton	11	2	1	8	8	22	7
Wrexham	10	1	3	6	14	26	6
Bury	11	1	2	8	7	21	5

October 5
First Division
Grimsby 0 Rotherham 2
Second Division
Bournemouth 3 Oldham 2
Brighton 1 Brentford 2
Bristol City 3 Chesterfield 0
Colchester 2 Reading 0
Port Vale 5 Cambridge United 0
Third Division
Cheltenham 2 Lincoln City 1
Halifax 0 Scunthorpe 0
Luton 5 Darlington 2
Mansfield 3 Leyton Orient 2
Rushden and Diamonds 2 Hartlepool 1
Shrewsbury 1 Hull 1
Torquay 2 Southend 1

SCOTLAND

First Division
October 6
Raith 2 Airdrie 2
Second Division
Alloa 2 Berwick 2
Third Division
Peterhead 2 Queens Park 1

AUSTRALIA

NSW ASF

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS
U10
Granville 1 2 Sutherland
Southern Districts 6 2 Ku-Ring-Gai

U11
Central Coast 2 0 Canterbury
Southern Districts 1 2 Ku-Ring-Gai

U12
Blacktown 4 0 Sutherland
Illawarra 2 1 Ku-Ring-Gai

U13
Central Coast 3 2 Sutherland
Southern Districts 1 2 Far North Coast

U14
Gladesville-Hornsby 3 2 Sutherland
Illawarra 4 0 Far North Coast

U15
Central Coast 1 2 Sutherland
Southern Districts 1 0 Far North Coast

U16
Gladesville-Hornsby 1 2 Blacktown
Illawarra 3 1 Southern Districts

U17
Gladesville-Hornsby 3 6 Granville
Nepean 1 0 Southern Districts

U18
Gladesville-Hornsby 2 1 Blacktown
Illawarra 1 0 Manly Warringah

U21
Granville 0 12 Blacktown
Southern Districts 0 0 BYE

AAM
Bankstown 2 1 Nepean
Canterbury 0 3 Manly Warringah

O35
Gladesville-Hornsby 2 1 Granville
Sutherland 3 0 Ku-Ring-Gai

14W
Shoalhaven 1 0 Sutherland
Mitchell 0 2 Manly Warringah

16W
Shoalhaven 7 0 Granville
Sutherland 1 3 Manly Warringah

AAW
Nepean 4 6 Eurobodalla
Sutherland 1 3 Manly Warringah

The

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

is pleased to announce the re-appointment of Stewart Porter as head coach for the 2002 season following its success in winning the Division One Premiership and Grand Final double.

An opportunity now exists for the position of Under 21s/Assistant coach for the 2002 season and we invite expressions of interest.

For further details please contact
Simon Philips on 0413 585 413 or;
Jim Zammit on 0414 331 734

Written applications enclosing details of experience and qualifications may be sent to Simon Philips, Club Secretary, 106 Womerah Avenue Darlinghurst NSW 2011

THE ROCKDALE CITY SUNS SOCCER CLUB
("The Club of the Future")

is seeking
QUALIFIED COACHES
for the 2002 season in the following grades:
Under 21, Under 18s (Super League)
Under 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s (Youth)
Under 11s and Under 12s (Cadets)
PLAYERS are also required for all teams

The club is also holding a **COACHING ACADEMY**
Sundays (9am) and Thursdays (6.30pm)
Starting from Sunday 23 September 2001

If interested please contact the club's new Coaching Director, Bill Pilovski on 0402 415 496
Or the Club Secretary, Mendo Cklamovski on 0419 287 907

Send applications by 12 October 2001
to PO Box 95, Rockdale NSW 2216

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PHONE: (WORK) (.....) .....
PHONE: (MOBILE) (.....).....
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